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The Brethren
EVANGELIST

Praise The Lord For Progress!



The Benevolent Board of
The Brethren Church

Vol. XCVI January 12, 1974 No. 1

The Brethren EVANGELIST

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OUR COVER: The cover illustration and all line drawings used on The Benevolent Board pages are presented through permission of the American Bible Society and are taken from Today's English Version of the New Testament and Psalms.

1974 BRETHREN PASTOR'S CONFERENCE

Time: April 30 - May 2
Place: Ashland, Ohio
Theme: "Divorce and Remarriage"
Main Speaker: Dr. Chester Raber,
Director of Educational Services at Oaklawn Center, Elkhart, Indiana. Dr. Raber received his Th. D. in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a capable speaker and group leader.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"Criticism is something you can avoid by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing."
Wayne Heights Newsletter

CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH

THEME: BAPTISM MEMORIAL
SUGGESTED DATES: MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH
TIME: DURING MID-WEEK SERVICES - SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES
AVAILABLE RESOURCE MATERIALS:
Booklet containing digest of the nine papers on the subject - 25¢ per copy plus mailing.
Limited number of complete manuscripts of each paper.
Tapes of open discussions on subject during Annual Conferences.
Tapes of manuscripts as read during Conference.
(the above three items available at nominal cost)
(order from Central Council Office. We suggest you place orders soon for booklet.)

For further information contact Central Council Office. We urge the Brethren to be in prayer as this important theme is studied and discussed.
Baptism Committee

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By the Way

Praise the Lord!

With this first issue of 1974 we wish to greet you with "PRAISE THE LORD!", our conference theme for this year. Praise The Lord for the birth of our Saviour celebrated on December 25th of last year. We Praise The Lord for the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Brethren which also occurred on December 25th.

Whatever we may feel for the past year of 1973 and the events that occurred we can still Praise The Lord that they were not as devastating as those in other areas of the world. We can Praise The Lord that what has been revealed in political circles and in the leadership echelon of our nation may serve as an ear-splitting alarm clock, not only to alert us as to the time but to make us aware that it is time to get our house in order.

1973 is now history. Whatever good and bad filled the days of that year will go down in history with it. It is good to dwell occasionally on the past, but progress was never made in any area by dwelling on what may have been achieved "had we only known . . ." "if we could only do it all over again" "if . . ." "but. . . ."

This new year unfolds exactly as did the new year 1973 and every new year previous. It will offer its share of events, exciting and perhaps not so exciting. It will certainly offer many challenges. Challenges that will have to be met as individuals, as a community, as members of a local church, a district and a denomination.

The greatest challenge facing us as Christians certainly must be to take advantage of the opportunity (while we still have it) to exercise our privilege to bear a Christian testimony. A testimony that will replace hatred with love, hunger and starvation with food from hearts and purses of compassion, deception with forthright honesty and trustworthiness, complacency and apathy with concern and involvement.

Here, where the headquarters of the denomination resides, we can Praise The Lord for dedicated executives and personnel of the various boards, for a ministry on the campus that has a tremendous potential outreach for the spreading of the Gospel, for the facilities and opportunities to publish the teachings on faith, doctrine and practice of the heritage that was handed down to us these past 250 years.

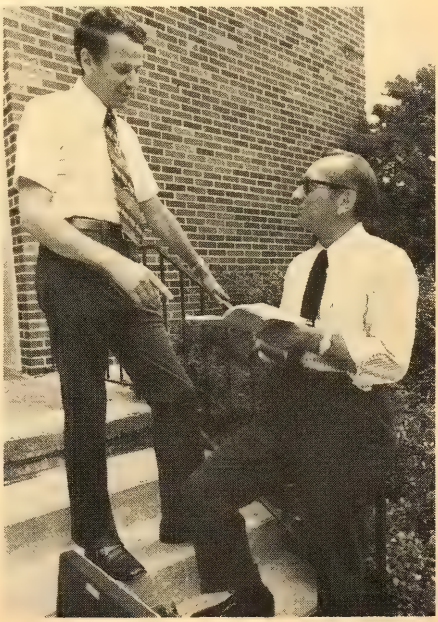
We can Praise The Lord for the tremendous impact made in many areas of our church geographically by the youth of our church, especially those known as Crusaders. Certainly, it must be obvious that the well known "communication gap" between the generations has a much shorter bridge across it at the present time.

Praise The Lord for the doors that have been opened in our Missionary endeavors, for the opportunity to have met personally and listened to some of our fellow Brethren from Nigeria, for the news of the growth of The Brethren Church in Africa. And for a new outreach in South America and the Spanish speaking people in the continental southwest of the United States.

Praise The Lord for a Seminary that is growing where others have fallen by the wayside, for administration and faculty that have contributed to the reason for growth at A.T.S.

Resolutions cannot undo that which has been done. They cannot be made with the thought in mind that they will govern our destiny, but they can be made in such manner that will help the coming year be much better than the last.

By resolving to go to God continuously in prayer for the leaders of our church, our nation and for those in other parts of the earth. We can go to Him even though we know our need of having a closer walk with Him and with the knowledge of His promise that He will listen to us. John 14: 13, 14 (G.S.)



Moderator Steiner and Vice-Moderator Barnhart staging early planning for 1974 after General Conference session.

MISSIONARY NEWS

HEALTH CENTER REPORT

Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham, General Secretary of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, recently returned from an administrative visit to the work in India. The following is taken from a letter where he reports on a visit to the Health Center in Rajahmundry operated by the Brethren Mission.

"We made a brief visit to the Orphanage, Church, and Health Center. The clinic is on a main road a couple blocks from the orphanage. I was pleasantly surprised at seeing the operation. Last month there were an average of 135 people treated daily, which is no small accomplishment when considering they have two hours in the morning and one in the evening. There is a doctor who works those hours, a woman we might call a practical nurse and four men who are involved with the orphanage or otherwise and who have part-time duties at the clinic. The doctor is one of two assistants at a hospital and works part-time in our clinic. He is a Hindu but attends the prayer meetings. The operation is well organized and considering the smallness of the rented building, it is surprising what is being done.

"But this clinic is being enlarged . . . with a move into a new two-story house about a block up the road from the present location. It is well suited for the clinic with three rooms and small storage room downstairs which will be the clinic, and three rooms upstairs which will become office, literature center, and storage. Moving to this upper facility will give the orphanage building a third room for the boys to live in which is badly needed. With twenty boys having all their lockers, beds, and other possessions in two small rooms is too much. Eating and cooking is done across the street in the church-institute buildings and at night the boys are scattered into these various buildings for their sleeping. Now, since the new building will soon be ready for dedication and occupancy, they have some of the older boys sleeping in the new building for security reasons."



Not only are patients treated physically at the clinic but an evangelist is on hand to pray with those who come for treatment and tracts are distributed. A mobile clinic is also serving among the out villages away from Rajahmundry. The same doctor and sometimes others, go out with a group and the supplies they can carry with them, as many areas can be reached only by foot. Again it is surprising what can be done with limited supplies but the Lord is asked to bless in each occasion as an evangelist or pastor prays with the patient before he is seen by the doctor.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



Focus on the BIG PEOPLE

Usually this "Brethren House BEAT" column accentuates the work and teaching methods used with children at Brethren House. Not so today . . . the emphasis is on adults—the BIG PEOPLE!

Cast of characters:

Forrest Reed
Joe Tracy
Mrs. Joe (Elda) Tracy
Bill Bronson
Miss Gretchen French
Miss Bonnie Munson
Mrs. Phil (Jean) Lersch
Pastor Phil Lersch

The ministry at Brethren House is truly a **team effort.** When you've "heard" us say that before, you probably thought we meant the team of Bonnie, Jean and Phil. Well, this is true because we do consider ourselves as a team-of-three deeply involved in the leadership and service of this work.

But the teamwork goes further than that—far enough to include the people listed above, plus a few more. Aside from the fact that our congregation is unusually small, this talk about "teamwork" is not so different from other congregations. Right? But I'm writing about it because each of our people is serving according to his particluar gifts—and this is much more important in every church than just "getting jobs done" by those not particularly "gifted" or interested in the assignments they have. For example,

Forrest is the treasurer because he has an affinity and reliability for keeping accurate records of this kind.

Joe and **Elda** come to Brethren House nearly every Thursday morning to help Bonnie process materials and supplies. Elda catalogs pictures, stories, games and countless other items. Joe helps with everything from removing staples to defrosting the refrigerator. Neither Joe nor Elda feel equipped to work directly with the children, as in former years. But they are serving according to their present capabilities (gifts) in very valuable ways.

Bill is a handy painter, repair man and carpet layer. He holds a good job as a machinist during the week—and gives well from his earnings (as do all the adults). So, it's logical (and a sign of God's leading) that Bill assists with the upkeep of the Brethren House properties. He feels much more at home with this work than "talking" responsibilities, although he comes through beautifully on those occasions too.

Gretchen is a full-time piano teacher, thus her natural place on Sunday morning is at the piano. This arrangement releases Jean, who can also play piano, to lead and teach hymns for the children. But Gretchen also has an interest and "knack" for gardening. So she supervises the planting and care of growing things for our Prayer Garden behind Brethren House.

Then **Bonnie, Jean** and **I** work very closely together in planning the teaching/learning experiences for the kids. And even in that teamwork, we recognize our differences. Jean is often the initiator of ideas. Bonnie and I add to, refine, and build-in the self-expressive crafts. Bonnie keeps accurate records of all the materials we develop and use. And I also work at keeping Brethren House clean and in good repair. Something like a team within a team. By serving according to our adeptness and interests, the many hours involved are not a burden, but a fulfillment.

By contrast, if **Jean** kept the financial records . . . disaster!

If **Bill** tried to lead the singing . . . disaster.

If **Bonnie** tried to paint the house . . . disaster!

If **Joe** attempted to make an overlay . . . probable disaster!

If **I** tackled the piano playing . . . definite disaster!

There is, however, a sharing of responsibilities and experience as each of these adults takes his turn at leading the adult class on Sunday morning—each in his own way.

Now, I'm saying two things: **First,** Brethren House is not just a children-centered ministry. The adults involved are being ministered unto as they minister. And there are a few others, including Pat and Cynthia—two neighborhood mothers, active in other churches, who come to help with our after-school program. (Plus the many who live miles away, and whom we work with through mail and phone.)

Second, we seek to find opportunities for people to serve according to their particular gifts and calling. Too often the church has decided that certain jobs should be done and then strained to "con" someone into doing the job. How much better to challenge believers to listen for God's calling, respond by letting fellow-believers know of the call, then discover a means of answering that call by using the "gifts" within them. In other words, better to leave some tasks undone than to have coerced laborers attempting them.

We're not there yet, but this is one of our goals. And we're working at it by developing a relaxed atmosphere where God's people are encouraged to respond in whatever ways He leads them.

—Phil

THE FIRST — WAS A SUCCESS

Report by Juan Carlos Miranda



left to right—Juan Carlos Miranda, Oscar Vena, and Ricardo Rivero making their plans at the Bible Institute.

The dates of October 12 and 13, 1973 will long be remembered by the Brethren Church in Argentina. During those two days, ninety-two pastors and Sunday School teachers attended the first Sunday School Teachers' Congress at the Eden Bible Institute in Soldini, Argentina.

The Bible Institue had organized the Congress and invited all of our people to come. The only cost to the participants, was the expense of the trip as meals and lodging were provided by the Institute. The total cost for food plus expenses and love offering for our workers was two hundred dollars—the best two hundred dollars ever invested.

Most "experts" had predicted we would have an attendance of twenty to thirty people, some of us, the most optimistic, calculated sixty to seventy, but the attendance of ninety-two was almost unbelievable. A total of one hundred fifteen were here but that included children, people preparing the food, and other workers.

Rev. and Mrs. David Constance from the Christian Missionary Alliance were our special speakers and a lady from Child Evangelism led our workshop on how to organize Sunday School classes for children outside of the church building. Two of our pastors, Rev. Ricardo Rivero and Rev. Oscar Vena, led the workshops on working with adults and youth respectively. One of our laymen, Miguel Angel Franco, worked with those interested in the work of the Sunday School Superintendent. Each one of them did a tremendous piece of work and I wish I could share with you the testimonies of those who attended.

My wife, Maria, was the one that worked on the organization of this first Congress and had a lot of responsibility in her hands during those days. I believe she did . . . well I might be accused of being prejudiced if I told you what kind of a job she did. The rest of us on the staff of the Eden Bible Institute helped with the work, but the real thrill was to see so many Sunday School

teachers and pastors, eager to learn more and to return to their churches to practice what they learned.

I was told that the wife of one of our pastors and her mother gave a report the following Sunday that lasted for one and a half hours. A superintendent gave such a report in his church that those that did not come, now want to make sure that we include them for next year even if they have to miss a days work. This time the Friday was a holiday in Argentina so no one had to miss work however, next year we don't have any holidays on a Friday.

About thirty miles from the Eden Bible Institue there is the small town of Villa Mugueta where they only have a Home Bible Study once a week. A young lady came from that small group and decided that she wanted to start a Sunday School class in her home. She has asked for materials and has already started her class.

We have set new goals for each one of our churches in their Sunday School hour. We will have a contest each year based on the best yearly averages. The winner will receive a trophy in the shape of a shield and each year a plate will be added to it with the winning church able to keep the trophy for the whole year. All are excited about it and we pray that they will not only work for the trophy but for the souls of children and adults that should be added to God's kingdom and His church.

Now we are praying and working toward our second Sunday School Teachers' Congress and for the results during this year of work. Pray for our church in Argentina and the work that is being done here. Can you imagine what ninety-two pastors and teachers can do for our Sunday Schools if they have caught the vision and practice what they have learned at this first Sunday School Teachers' Congress?

THE SOLOMONS IN COLOMBIA



The Kenneth Solomon family have arrived in Medellin, Colombia and have now located a house to rent which they should be occupying by the time you read this announcement. They report they will have room in the house to take care of a few visitors at a time from the United States and the first ones will be the Mark Logans as they return from service in Argentina to the United States in early December.

Joel and Margaret Solomon are already attending school which is on a schedule similiar to the United States however, Tim and Becky in High School will have to wait for the start of the new school year in January as their school is on its "summer" vacation per the Colombian school year.

The Solomons can still be contacted at their temporary address, the Evangelical Seminary in Medellin write: Mr. Kenneth L. Solomon, Apartado Aereo 1141-Nal. 3862, Medellin, Colombia, South America. If you would like to have a prayer reminder for this family there still is a limited supply available from the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Pray for this family and Praise the Lord with us that they have arrived to begin this church planting ministry in Colombia, South America.

WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Pastor Phil Lersch, Chairman

Brethren World Relief Committee

A Six-Letter Obscenity

When Larry Ward* was in **LAOS,** standing on an unnamed battlefield, he could hear big guns boom over a hill in the distance. He was there because he had heard that there were people in the area who were trapped for long months in the fighting and who had no food.

Just as his helicopter landed, over that little hill stumbled the reeling figure of a Laotian woman. She was moaning and crying as she staggered along and then fell to her knees before the group.

Ward could not understand her, so he turned to the interpreter beside him. "She is—demented. She is not right in the head," he said.

"But what is she saying?"

"Oh, she is saying that she is hungry. She has no food, she has been a long time without food."

Somewhere on a tape cassette, Larry Ward has the moaning cry of that woman. But he writes: "I don't need the tape to remember it. It is recorded forever on the ears of my heart."

THAT'S WHAT **HUNGER** IS ALL ABOUT!

People—**people**—people like that woman in Laos.

Like a little boy in **HAITI.** He rubs his distended stomach, and he says over and over, "Please, Papa. I am so hungry."

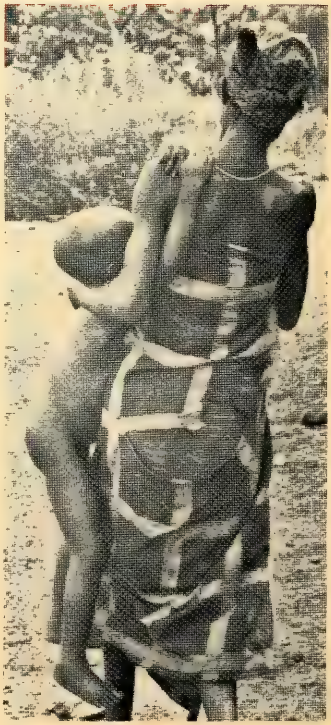
And like a little boy in **CAMBODIA**. Larry Ward describes it: "He has been brought to the refugee camp from an area where there has been heavy fighting. For many weeks his area has had no real food. His little arms and legs are pathetically thin. You may not believe this. I do not blame you if you don't. Your world and mine are very different. But I take thumb and forefinger and gently circle that pencil-thin ankle. I move my hand up that skin-and-bones little leg and—still circling it just with thumb and forefinger—I can move my hand freely over his little knee and far up his thigh."

Ward asked the Cambodian doctor with him how old the boy was. The answer? "He is nine. Nine years old."

Then Ward continues: "So I circle a little boy's leg which is really a little baby's leg in my trembling hand—and I ask God to please, please, **please** somehow let me help.

"That's what it is all about.

"I can't remember who said or wrote the words. But I agree with them: **'Hunger—anywhere—is a disgrace to humanity.'**



"Hunger. It's a six-letter word. **An ugly, six-letter obscenity."**

(*Information for this article is from **And There Shall Be Famines,** a new book by Larry Ward, president of Food For The Hungry, Inc.)

ICL EXPANSION HELPS CHURCHES GROW



During the three and a half years ICL has been in existence, it has received wide acceptance as a qualified teacher training program. It is also experiencing rapid growth. By the end of this year, ICL will have held 87 teacher/leader training seminars. Last year, over 4,000 people attended these seminars and director Lowell Brown is projecting an attendance of over 8,000 for 1973/74.

ICL returns annually to cities where seminars have been previously held. This provides the local church with a consistent teacher/leader training program and a consistent educational philosophy. In addition, seminars are scheduled for new cities each year. Cities where seminars are held for the second or third time have experienced a doubling, even tripling of seminar attendance.

NEW PROGRAMS FOR LEADERS

Along with the rapid growth ICL is experiencing in its teacher/leader training seminars, three new programs have been added to the ICL schedule: Family Life Seminars; Church Growth Seminars and a Vocational Church Staff Conference. The Family Life Seminar is designed to assist pastors, educational workers, adult and youth teachers in more effective ministry to the needs of the family. Two day seminars in church growth are led by Winfield C. Arn, Donald McGavran, C. Peter Wagner and pastors from churches successful in using church growth principles. Chrurch Growth Seminars will help pastors and their key laymen set goals for their church's growth and then plan methods for achieving their goals. The Vocational Church Staff Conference will help professional church workers keep up with new teaching/learning theories, new methods of instruction, patterns of grouping and many other new educational developments.

Take advantage of the opportunity and enroll in an ICL Teacher/Leader Training Seminar, a Church Growth Seminar or the Vocational Church Staff Conference.

ICL TEACHER/LEADER SEMINARS

Vancouver, B.C.	January 24-26
St. Petersburg, FL	January 24-26
Miami, FL	January 31 - February 2
Detroit, MI	January 31 - February 2
Anaheim, CA	February 7-9
San Diego, CA	February 14-16
Grand Rapids, MI	February 14-16
Sacramento, CA	February 21-23
Minneapolis, MN	February 28 - March 2
Columbia, SC	February 28 - March 2
Dayton, OH	March 7-9
Kansas City, MO	March 14-16
Dallas, TX	March 14-16
Van Nuys, CA	March 21-23
Ashland, OH	March 28-30
St. Louis, MO	April 4-6
Buffalo, NY	April 4-6
Omaha, NB	April 18-20
Washington, DC	April 25-27
Philadelphia, PA	May 2-4
Boston, MA	May 9-11
Chicago, IL	May 16-18

Total cost: $25.00 each for 10 or more registrations from your church (5-9, $27.00 each; 1-4, $30.00 each.)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SEMINARS

Seminars conducted by recognized leaders in Christian education for Early Childhood, Children, Youth, and College/Adult. $25.00 each for 10 or more registrations from one church.

FAMILY LIFE SEMINARS

For Pastors, D.C.E.'s, Youth Directors, Adult and Youth teachers, a seminar on counseling and family relationships. $35.00 per person. Write ICL for information.

PROFESSIONAL CHURCH STAFF SEMINARS

Three days of training by nationally recognized leaders.

Family Life Seminars—Norman Wright and Norman Wakefield
Church Management Seminars—Olan Hendrix
Rapid Reading Seminars—Ben Johnson
Church Growth Seminars—Donald McGavran and Win Arn

ICL TRAINING RESOURCES

TRAINING PACS

ICL training materials provide a program of teacher/leader training throughout the year. ICL Training PACs are available for the four basic age levels in two series. Each $5.95 PAC includes an ICL handbook, workbook and resource cassette.

WAYS TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL
Early childhood 9050108; Children 9150218
Youth 9750304; Adult 9950400 (c)
WAYS TO HELP THEM LEARN
Early Childhood 9050604; Children 9150706
Youth 9750800; Adult 9950907 (c)
Handbooks and learning guides available separately.
COMPLETE SET (8) ICL HANDBOOKS $14.95. 9550100 (c)

For information write to
International Center for Learning
110W. Broadway
Glendale, California 91204

news ... from the Brethren

Cumberland, Maryland celebrated their Home Coming October 28th, with a good attendance; lots of music, instrumental and vocal. An all day service was held; lunch and dinner in basement of church. Three ministers attended.

Anna S. Bucy, Cor. Sec.

Memorials



WEIGHLEY

William S. Weighley, age 70, a member of First Brethren Church of Waterloo, Iowa, passed away on November 11th at Allen Hospital after a short illness. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, and a daughter, Mrs. Richard Hamer and two grandchildren. The memorial services on Wednesday, November 14th, was in charge of Rev. Glenn Grumbling at the Locke Funeral Home. Entombment was in Temple of Memories at Garden of Memories.

* * *

MIXDORF

Mrs. Flossie Mixdorf, a member of First Brethren Church of Waterloo, Iowa, passed away on Sunday, December 2nd at Schoitz Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 5th at Kearns Dykeman Chapel. She is survived by two brothers and two sisters.

* * *

DIEHL

Ione Diehl, 79, died November 23, 1973. Memorial services were conducted by Rev. M. W. Dodds, Monday, November 26th at the Watts Funeral Home in Bryan, Ohio, with burial at Fountain Grove Cemetery.

Goldenaires

Rev. and Mrs. Fred Vanator observed their 66th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 28th. Rev. Vanator is Pastor Emeritus of the Sarasota, Florida Church.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. William Bixler, Sr. observed their 57th on Dec. 2nd.

Sarasota, Florida

TIME MARCHES ON



Fifty Years Ago: Raising the roof at Riverside Institute, Lost Creek Kentucky. Plans were formulated to enlarge Meyers Hall at Lost Creek to a two-story structure by raising the roof.

Twenty-Five Years Ago: The rededication of the newly painted, redecorated and re-equipped church building at West Alexandria, Ohio.

Ten Years Ago: Four Brethren students were listed among the fifteen Ashland College students nominated for listing in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. Thomas Grisso, Carolyn Immel, Jerry Oberly and Lois Elaine Staley.

SISTERHOOD





by Sherry Barnhart

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

At this time of year, I should be writing about making New Year's resolutions or at least thinking about last year—1973. We could look back or we could look forward. Either way would bring thoughts that are happy and exciting. Each year is a new adventure for each person on this earth.

Sisterhood is right now in the middle of the year. We have had our organizational meetings and have gotten to know each other and have started to study our new books and lessons. So now what can be new and exciting in Sisterhood for the rest of this new year? Probably every one of you have at least planned something kind of new and different for the first few meetings but now you have at least 6 or more to plan before General Conference rolls around and it's time to start over again.

What is left to do? What haven't you tried yet? These are questions that I hope you are at least thinking about. I'd like to offer a few suggestions that I know some societies are trying successfully.

1. Each month when we think about what to do, the first thing that comes to our minds is the important events in the month. For example, in February - Valentines day. Why not try to do something different with these holidays? Celebrate them in the wrong month or celebrate them as our ancestors did or celebrate them as little children.
2. Have your meeting at the home of an older W.M.S. lady and ask her to serve as hostess. Also you could ask her to help in the meeting or to demonstrate something that she does as a special talent.
3. Have a sewing meeting. I know that in all the churches there are older ladies who can quilt or tat or knit or crochet or show the girls how to do a skill that would be fun and interesting.
4. Set a certain topic for each month. For example, set the topic—show and tell. Have each girl bring something to show and tell about.
5. Have a candle-light service.
6. Have a backwards meeting—start with the benediction and work backwards.
7. Discuss the lyrics of records that are popular now.
8. Have a Hobo party.
9. Go camping.
10. Have a World Day of Prayer Program.
11. Organize a church work day for your girls.
12. Honor someone special in your church every month.
13. Decorate the church bulletin board every month.
14. Do whatever is pleasing to Christ and to your members.

Each day of your life is something special. Let's begin this New Year by being thankful and by striving to do our best in all things.

These ideas that I gave you may not be at all what you need. They may sound really dumb for some of your groups but hopefully some of you can use these. I wish that each of you would try to make your meetings interesting and spiritually based.

Good luck and God Bless You All.

Happy New Year,
Sherry

PRAISE THE LORD

IN FLORA

Times are'a changing, as the song says, and so is the oldest retirement facility of The Brethren Church. The Brethren's Home of Flora, Indiana was opened in 1923 in a large two story brick home and has continued to provide benevolent care to Brethren and others to this day.

The growing need for nursing home care was met when a new, modern one floor wing was constructed and opened in 1968. This new facility enabled The Brethren's Home to provide residential and nursing care to meet state requirements. Because of growing demands by the state and increasing needs of the elderly, it was determined in 1972 that the entire operation would be more feasible if a 40 bed addition were constructed.

The full span of retirement services are being offered at Flora with apartments being added to the program which are known as Brethren Village. The original building has been renovated at a cost of $125,000 to include 9 apartments—8 one bedroom and 1 two bedroom. Each apartment has a kitchenette, bath, living room and bedroom(s). The apartments have wall-to-wall carpet and individual heating-cooling-ventilating systems.

These apartments will be joined by four apartments in two of the bungalows now on the site which are scheduled for renovation in the spring for an ultimate total of 13 apartments.

All apartments are connected to the main nurses' station in the nursing unit via intercom so the residents will have 24 hr. access to medical assistance.

Each apartment is available on a life-use contract. The basic fee may be paid in one lump sum upon establishing residency or be included as part of the monthly cost, at a correspondingly higher rate.



Changing face of original building being renovated into retirement apartments

FOR PROGRESS



Let us praise the Lord:

Residents will be guaranteed 20 days of free medical care in the nursing home yearly and a permanent bed in the nursing home should they be unable to care for themselves at some future date.

All utilities except television are included in the monthly maintenance fee, and coin-operated washers and dryers will be located off the central lounge, where crafts classes and programs will be offered.

To insure each apartment resident at least one balanced meal daily, one such meal will be provided by the nursing home as part of the basic services, although it is not mandatory.

Rosemary Eddy, executive consultant, wraps up the philosophy of Brethren Village this way:

"Our main purpose here is to encouarge people of retirement age to remain independent as long as possible. Our apartments are unfurnished, so the residents can bring their own furniture and treasures with them. Provisions will be made for small garden plots, should they desire them.

"Yet even though our residents will be encouraged to be independent, they will have the assurance of medical assistance and care at any time should they need it. They can live here in perfect confidence, knowing that there always will be someone nearby to check on them and make sure they're all right.

"There is no reason why a capable elderly person should be forced into the traditional nursing home when they are still able to care for themselves simply because there is no other way they can conveniently guarantee themselves medical attention. We're providing that way."

Administrator Gene Geaslen and his staff would welcome a visit from you at any time to see how "times are'a changing" at Flora. Or perhaps you would like to share in this benevolent work by donating any of the needed items listed here:

Bath Chairs on Casters	3-4	$40.00
Portable Commodes	3-4	35.00
Heat Lamps (floor model with gooseneck)	2-3	20.00
Pillows for Beds (Shredded fiber filled)	10-25	5.50
Wheelchair Safety Belts	10	5.75
Laundry Carts (canvas lined)	2	20.00
Medicine Cart (3 shelf stainless steel cart with 4 casters)	1	45.00
Hot Water Bottles and Ice Bags	5-10	2.40
Commercial Toaster Machine	1	380.00
Lift for Bathtub	1	750.00
Convection Oven	1	900.00

Send to: The Brethren's Home, Rt. 2, Box 97, Flora, Indiana 46929 or call 219-967-3783.

PRAISE THE LORD

IN ASHLAND

BRETHREN CARE

Brethren Care opened its doors in August 1972 and amidst problems and financial burdens, progress has been noted.

This newest retirement and nursing center of The Brethren Church is licensed for 90 beds in residential and nursing care plus three apartments. The Center reached near capacity in November 1973 and a waiting list is now being formed.

New regulations and requirements continue to be issued by state offices and cause added costs for both our homes at Ashland and Flora, Indiana. The new building at Ashland is furnished with the latest equipment but even so several additional costly items have been required. Rising food and salary costs cause the Administrator and the Board of Trustees to walk the tightrope of meeting expenses on one hand and holding the line on prices charged residents on the other. In profit making facilities prices have sky-rocketed but we are making every attempt to hold increases to a minimum.



Sing to the glory of His name



New fence for Brethren Care

Progress has been achieved in another area at Brethren Care due to the generosity of Miss Dorothy Carpenter. A fence was erected across the rear courtyard and lawn as shown in the photo on this page. This will allow residents to go out in this area without fear of being hit by cars or becoming lost on the 6 acre wooded site. This gift is much appreciated by staff and residents. Activities continue to be a vital part of life at Brethren Care. Rev. L. V. King, along with his wife, lives at the center and assists in the religious life and program. Mrs. Richard Boyd serves as the Activities Directory and each month brings interesting activities. Crafts are a strong portion of the program and these came to fruition in a Bazaar on November 30 at the Center.

The Bazaar had lots of lovely items for sale in addition to baked goods donated by staff members and friends. The baked goods were all sold and a good portion of the handcrafts by the end of the day. Items left were on sale over the entire weekend and $250.00 was realized from the Bazaar which was used for the staff-resident family Christmas party and will maintain the crafts program.

FOR PROGRESS

Another sign of progress at Brethren Care has been made possible by the youth of our denomination through the 1972-73 BYC Project. $1400 has been donated to provide a worship area for Brethren Care. A worship center with all accouterments and storage space for worship items in the table will be purchased or built and possibly a portable microphone and loud speaker will be obtained which is greatly needed as many residents have hearing difficulties. Thanks to our youth, the residents of Brethren Care will have more meaningful worship experiences.

Future hopes for Brethren Care call for development of the entire site to include a residential care building and more apartments. When this is achieved, the original building will be converted to all nursing care.



Sing praise to God



Getting ready to close shop on the first day of the bazaar Pictured (l. to r.): Mrs. Maud Wells, Mrs. Nina Vanosdall, Shannon Boyd, Beverly Summy

Mr. Lenny Seaman is Administrator at Brethren Care. He and his staff welcome visitors at the Center any time. In addition to personal visits, Brethren Care would be glad to receive any of the following donated items:

Talcum powder
Deodorant
Hair pins
Lined writing paper
Toothpaste and denture cleaner
Shoestrings
Satin lined hairnets
Adjustable garters
Hairbrushes
Rubber rings to sit on
Footies - to keep feet warm in bed
Alarm clocks - 2
Safety pins
Electric razors - 2
Money
Volunteer service
Prayer

Send to: Brethren Care, 2000 Center Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805 or call 419-289-1585.

PRAISE THE LORD

BUCKEYE APARTMENTS

Purchases in 1970 and 1972 of the Jacobs Home and the house next to it on College Avenue in Ashland provided the land upon which The Benevolent Board constructed Buckeye Apartments.

The name of this new facility for active retirees was selected because a large buckeye tree, which is also the state tree, grows in the front yard. The apartments were completed in June 1973.

The two brick and cedar buildings are joined by a covered center walkway. Five 1 bedroom apartments and the laundry-storage room occupy the west building and four 2 bedroom apartments are located in the east building. Landscaping has added to the garden atmosphere. A carport is available at the rear of the building.

Apartments have the following features:

—complete kitchen, including disposal
—carpet
—air conditioning
—large closet & storage areas
—patio
—large glass windows
—all electric
—cable TV hookup
—traverse rods

Buckeye Apartments are available on a Life Use Contract, lease, or rental basis. When rented, the monthly cost is higher to cover not only monthly services but mortgage and interest payments.

The Life Use Contract makes construction possible when a resident provides the cost of an apartment and is assured life-tenancy or as long as the resident desires.

Should a resident decide to withdraw, or should health require nursing care at Brethren Care in Ashland, a proportionate refund will be given, or credit extended for nursing care. Refunds will be proportioned up to ten years of residency. Residents moving to the residential care area or nursing unit would receive proportionate credit on his cost of care.



Your greatness is seen in all the world!

The monthly comprehensive fee is a fair share of the cost of operation and upkeep and includes:

—Apartment Upkeep - repairs and painting
—Grounds Upkeep - lawn, trees, shrubs
—Utilities - water, sewage, trash pickup and snow removal. Electricity billed individually from electric company.
—Cable TV connections provided
—Laundry and service area - equipped with coin operated washer and dryer
—Nursing Service (available to leasing residents at extra cost) - 20 days of care at Brethren Care each year, including emergency calls in the apartment.

Buckeye Apartments are only a block from our Brethren Bookstore and Ashland College, 3 blocks from downtown, Park Street Church is directly behind the apartments and a bank is located across the street.

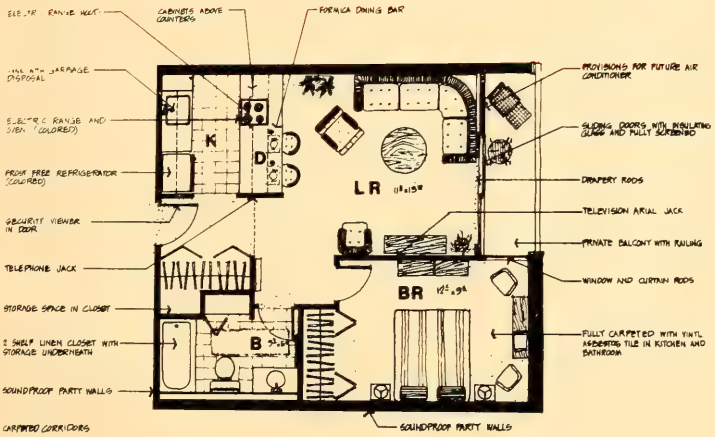
Residents at Buckeye Apartments are:

—Mrs. Chlora Hazen, Apt. A (from Ashland, Ohio)
—Mrs. Fred Moherman, Apt. B (from Ashland, Ohio)
—Mrs. Hilda Carpenter, Apt. G (from Ashland, Ohio)
—Mrs. Hattie Priser, Apt. H (from New Lebanon, Ohio)
—Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Becknell, Apt J (from Warsaw, Indiana and New Port Richey, Florida)

Apartments are still available! Contact The Benevolent Board for further information.

FOR PROGRESS

MARTIN HOUSE APARTMENTS



Through the combined efforts of Holland Associates and The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church, who are managing the building, Ashland now has a new and modern apartment building for senior citizens known as Martin House.

The program which makes this project possible is under Section 236 of the National Housing Act, and administered by the Federal Housing Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The basic rent within the program is determined by the cost of operation with interest at only 1% on the mortgage. The government pays the rest of the interest. This amounts to $61.11 per month per apartment.

The building has 83 units—82 one bedroom and 1 two bedroom apartments. On the first floor there is a large community meeting room and lounge. Next to the community room there is a large crafts or activity room. There is a central laundry which has three washers and dryers on the first floor near the stairs and elevator. A special delivery is just across the lobby from the elevators to allow for convenient moving of furniture.

Each apartment is approximately 22' x 25'. The kitchen and living area is approximately 21' x 12'. The area under the cabinets in the kitchen is open to the living area creating a dining bar on the living room side. A very adequate guest closet faces the entrance foyer. The bathroom has a large linen closet and a built-in vanity with a round sink.

Each apartment has its own balcony with a large sliding patio door. A three foot high railing encloses the balcony. First floor apartments have cement patios instead of balconies.

Features of Martin House Apartments are:

—Grounds fully maintained - resident maintenance personnel
—Electronic security protection (individual apartment electric intercom and front door control)
—Hydraulic elevators
—Fireproof construction and automatic sprinklers and fire alarm
—Emergency generator for electric power failure
—Trash chute on each floor - free trash collection
—Central mail pick up
—Free use of: community facilities, including library and crafts room, lounge, lobby, and coin operated central laundry.

Special features of each apartment are shown on the floor plan.

Apartments are available on a rental basis only. The cost is $126.41 per month if your annual income is $5,670.00 or less. Higher incomes pay more per month.

Rental information available at:

MARTIN HOUSE APARTMENTS
625 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805
Phone: 419-323-5721

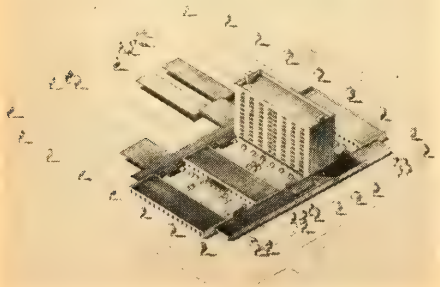
PRAISE THE LORD

IN SOUTH BEND

The city of South Bend, Indiana is undergoing some striking changes and The Brethren Church could be a part of that. A few years ago our S. Bend Brethren Church decided to remain in its inner city location to serve rather than move out to the suburbs. In the intervening years the downtown area has taken on a completely new face—new buildings, re-routed highway to allow for a mall in the future, leveling of riot burned and damaged areas and even fireplugs painted like policemen.

Over 10 acres of slum area adjacent to our church on S. Michigan is available and considerable discussion and preliminary planning has led to the concept of a retirement village for the area. The wrecked and condemned buildings are now being cleared away and will soon make the land available for development.

Mr. William Shields, banker and member of the S. Bend Church, has spearheaded efforts in planning the retirement center along with Dorman Ronk, Executive Secretary of The Benevolent Board; Mrs. Rosemary Eddy, Executive Consultant; and numerous city officials and organizations. Mr. Ors Eash, architect for the new additions at The Brethren's Home and for Buckeye Apartments, has been working diligently on possible plans for the center and one possibility is shown here. One story buildings would house food services, nursing and residential care, recreation, possibly R.E.A.L. services, day care center for the elderly and a high rise with apartments for retirees.



Architect's concept of S. Bend retirement Center



I pray for them

The center would be surrounded by considerable parking for residents and visitors, lawns, shrubs and flowers to assure privacy and protection.

A new corporation will be formed if the project gets the "green light" which will have strong ties to The Benevolent Board as we have helped conceive and develop the program. Efficiency, one and two bedroom apartments would be available on a Life-use Contract basis and the nursing and residential care unit would charge daily rates.

The S. Bend project offers a unique opportunity for development for a retirement community. New ways to serve the elderly are envisioned through close association with R.E.A.L. (Resources for Enriching Adult Living) services which could be located in the center. Day care service for senior citizens is a new concept whereby the elderly remain residents of their own homes but come to the center during the day for meals, activities and fellowship. This plan allows the senior citizen to be relatively independent while still providing needed food service and companionship.

Final decisions on the S. Bend project have not been made at this writing but watch for a report in the near future on "this, our newest venture!"

FOR PROGRESS

IN PENNSYLVANIA

Progress moves at a snail's pace sometimes but in other instances it comes swiftly. The latter is true for Brethren Care of Pennsylvania. From a Benevolent Board meeting on July 27, 1970 to the present (3½ years) we have seen the seed of an idea for a retirement center develop into actual acquisition of property for the project.

Mr. James Mackall of the Vinco Church serves as a member of The Benevolent Board and has been the guiding force behind the project of a retirement facility for Pennsylvania. In 1970 the idea was presented to the Pennsylvania District Conference and meeting with a favorable response, a fund was started at that conference.

December of 1971 found a committee meeting to lay the foundation work for forming the corporation to be known as Brethren Care of Pennsylvania.

Meetings early in 1972 produced officers in the committee which soon became officers for the corporation.

James Mackall President
John Golby Vice President
Henry Bates Secretary
Dorman Ronk Ass't Secretary
Robert Adams Treasurer

Brethren Care of Pennsylvania became a corporation in the state of Pennsylvania in June 1972 after papers were filed at the court house in Edensburg, Pennsylvania. Needs of various areas were assessed and it was determined that the Johnstown area itself was much in need of a good retirement facility. Projected plans call for a nursing unit, residential care and apartments.

Look forward a year from incorporation and you will see a gift of land received by Brethren Care of Pennsylvania for the purpose of erecting a retirement center. On July 24, 1973 the corporation officers received a beautiful, wooded 36 acre tract from Miss Elda M. Fresh. The land is located north of Johnstown and near our Vinco Church.

Miss Fresh is a retired school teacher and presented the land in memory of her mother, Emma Fresh, and the first building erected will bear the name of Emma Fresh. The four room log house and decorative pond will continue to be used by Miss Fresh as the project becomes a reality.

The property was purchased as the Fresh family homestead around the turn of the century. The log home was constructed over a period of several years during the early 1930's.



Let us praise His glory!

Funds are continuing to be gathered with hopes of breaking ground within two years. A survey of the tract has just been made and a master plan is being developed for the center.

Plans call for an initial unit of 80 beds for nursing. Following its completion, there are plans for an apartment complex with additional units to be added later as demand and finances permit. There will be areas for the construction of private cottages or homes which eventually would revert to the corporation. A few streets will be constructed but the natural beauty of the area will be preserved as much as possible. The log home will eventually become a library and recreation area.

Correspondence or gifts concerning this project should be directed to:

BRETHREN CARE OF PENNSYLVANIA
R.R. 1
Mineral Point, Pennsylvania 15942

Investment notes may be made with The Benevolent Board and designated for use in Pennsylvania if an individual wishes to support this particular area of service to the elderly.

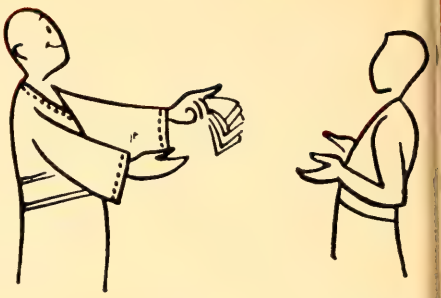
Ashland Theological Lib

PRAISE THE LORD

IN GIVING

The work of The Benevolent Board has experienced steady growth in the past five years and members of The Brethren Church have helped us meet this challenge by their increased giving. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous response to the needs of the elderly and to encourage you to make continuing progress possible through your positive stewardship.

The chart below reveals that giving to the benevolent work of The Brethren Church has increased steadily the past five years:



Lend and expect nothing back

DISTRICT	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973 to Dec 15
Southeast	$ 641.17	$ 824.61	$ 954.70	$1,019.10	$1,543.14
Pennsylvania	1,246.87	1,240.40	807.96	1,382.82	1,506.99
Ohio	3,494.03	3,160.67	3,242.14	4,017.13	4,016.03
Indiana	5,243.54	5,184.17	4,271.84	4,758.25	4,471.73
Central	539.19	400.03	550.17	727.00	598.51
Midwest	359.62	195.50	222.00	135.00	140.00
Southwest	95.85	75.44	45.73	42.14	107.63
California	15.00	40.00	10.00	30.00	65.00
Florida	424.52	293.54	249.19	385.00	397.11
TOTAL FOR THE YEAR	$12,059.69	$11,414.36	$10,350.73	$12,496.44	$12,846.14

We wish to be good stewards of your gifts so beginning January 1, 1974 we changed our policy on sending receipt letters. Due to the rise in postage rates, we will send a thank you - receipt letter at the end of the year rather than each time an offering arrives. Since some churches send gifts three or four times a year, it will decrease postage costs considerable to go to a once-a-year receipt method. However, if you have questions any time through the year on the status of your giving, please let us know and we will be glad to supply the needed information.

We have only mentioned church giving thus far but individual gifts have also been received. A number of people have also invested monies with The Benevolent Board—25 in the past two years. The Brethren's Home of Flora has also experienced an increase in this area. These investments have greatly aided in the development of new programs at Ashland and Flora and proposed projects at Johnstown, Pennsylvania; S. Bend, Indiana; and Lanark-Milledgeville, Illinois.

FOR PROGRESS

WHAT YOUR INVESTMENT DOES . . . for others

The stewardship of your money will assist in financing worthy Christian programs for the elderly. A major need of senior citizens is to be assured of provisions for loving care in an atmosphere that provides rich fellowship, security, and a pleasant environment during retirement years. Our retirement centers are designed to meet this basic need for Brethren and others, some of whom have limited resources.

A construction fund of substantial grants, bequests, donations, and investment notes is needed in order to expand our work. This fund will help underwrite initial building costs for retirement centers, apartments for active retirees, and other expansion programs of The Benevolent Board.

WHAT YOUR INVESTMENT DOES . . . for you

Notes are being offered in multiples of $500.00. Interest rates will be from 0-6% per annum, payable quarterly, semi-annually or annually. We would like notes for a minimum of three years. The note can be redeemed after notice is received requesting payment. The Benevolent Board would reserve the right to make payment of the note within 3 months after the request is made.

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR INVESTMENT NOTE . . . NOW

Complete the following form and mail it (or gifts and offerings you have) along with your check made payable to:

APPLICATION FOR INVESTMENT NOTE

THE BENEVOLENT BOARD
625 Center Street Ashland, Ohio 44805

Gentlemen:

I desire to put my money to work in establishing and financing construction for The Benevolent Board. Please make note payable: in my name as written below, or jointly in my name and _____
(Print Name)
_____ who is my _____
(Relationship)
in the amount of $_____ at (0-6) _____% interest for (3-5) _____ years. I would like interest payments made
_____ quarterly _____ semi-annually _____ annually.

Date _____

NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Moderator's Manna

"PRAISE THE LORD FOR 1974"



Some of us may discover that we have a pain in the neck and can't understand—Why? Others around us may say it comes from always looking backward. "Good Brethren" would not do so, but then . . . some might be doing far too much backward inspection. The Bible teaches us some of the consequences of a backward look. As your Moderator for 1974 I hope we will continue looking forward with God's vision and discover that we shall endure through — Praising The Lord for 1974!

I want to come to you several times through the voice of the Brethren Church, **The Brethren Evangelist**, during 1974 to share some thoughts concerning the church and the power of His Spirit in it. I would appreciate hearing of your concerns for the Brethren Church. I would anticipate from you some positive expressive kernals of truth that would create a mind of understanding and unity for God's Church. Take time and create those thoughts and send them on to me in the leading of the Almighty.

God has been very wonderful and gracious to me through the past year and over my years in the Pastoral ministry. I have been privileged to deliver the Gospel truth to many precious souls at His leading. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of this year to Praise The Lord. . . .

—for being our Father even when we will wonder away trying to do our thing, then wake up to the sensational discovery that he knows all and cares for all.

—for loving us even when we will be despised and rejected and running from his shepherding care.

—for daily tasks to grow the local church even though we say, "It won't work" and "We never did it that way before."

—for faithful surrendered Christian beings even though many who come each Sunday are doubting and disguising themselves as sons of God—when they are the sons of men.

—for forgiving us daily even when we are too busy being busy to let others know how busy we think we must be.

—for giving us eternal worth even when we find ourselves empty and worthless vessels.

—for seeking us out of a frustrated world and by thy Spirit opening to us the challenges of meaning and beauty even when we have not sought the Master's direction.

—for new relationships to bring us into proper Christian focus as friends in Christ even when we wanted to act as a snail and crawl back in our shell and hide from life.

—for The Brethren Church earnestly seeking direction and openly sharing new discoveries of truth even though we are self-satisfied and saturated.

—for minds of challenge and discernment in preachers and prophets of divine pronouncement when the present age says, "Let me be me, I'm not hurting anyone."

—for the potential of dynamic evangelism within and without The Brethren Church even when many of our churches don't understand evangelism as the breath and the heart beat of the Church. Evangelism is the Church as Mission is the Church, not something we do once or twice a year.

—for the boldness of laity to become the Church at vocation and in community living even when it is more popular to be insulated and isolated from the world.

—for faith in Jesus Christ and a living hope through that experience called death even when others are distressed, perplexed and can't understand his divine will.

—for the living viable Word to edify lives even in the face of smut and trash to clutter and deceive the mind.

—for **YOU**—created in the image of God to perform the tasks and purposes of the Creator even though some shall cry, "Fool! Fool!"

—for 1974—God's year to continue growing spiritually even though physically we shall continue to wither slowly away. Praise the Lord for vision, unity and love through Jesus Christ our **Saviour** and **LORD!**

Moderator 1974
Paul D. Steiner, Pastor
220 E. Locust St.
Lanark, Illinois 61046

FORD TO SPEAK AT NRB CONVENTION

Gerald R. Ford will be the principlal speaker at the 31st Annual Convention of National Religious Broadcasters at the Congressional Breakfast on January 29, 1974 at 8 A.M. in the International Ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C. as announced today by Dr. Ben Armstrong, Executive Secretary of NRB.

Gerald Ford has been a regular and faithful attendant at previous NRB Congressional Breakfasts. He served for many years as the popular Congressman from Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1934 he was voted the outstanding football player at the University of Michigan.

Ford, 60, a life long Episcopalian, attends Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria, Virginia. His home church is Grace Episcopal in Grand Rapids where he served as a Sunday School teacher who "believed in what he said," according to a Detroit Free Press story by reporter Hiley Ward. His son, Michael, 23, is a first-year student at Gordon-Conwell Seminary in Wenham, Massachusetts.

About 1,200 delegates from all over the world are expected with over 100 Congressmen, Senators, Ambassadors and official Washington attending one or more events. The theme for the 1974 Convention is "Jesus Christ—the Message of the Medium." The program this January promises to be the best ever with invitations already sent to Richary Wiley, Vincent Wasilewski, David Foster, Corrie ten Boom, Dean Burch, Mayor Walter Washington, Clyde Taylor, Harold Lindsell, Theodore Raedeke, Richard and Patti Roberts, Dean Burch, Ralph Carmichael and "The Apostle" production cast, Wallace Johnson and the Chiefs of the Broadcast Bureau of the FCC, Lee Shih-Feng, Edward L. R. Elson, Edward G. Latch, Paul Anderson, Perlita Lim and other noted religious broadcasters.

Additional music for the convention will be presented by Bill Pearce, the Ambassador Quartet, David Boyer, Suzanne Johnson and Thurl Ravenscroft. Seven simultaneous workshops on a daily basis scheduled are: (1) Missionary Broadcasting, (2) Christian Station Owners and Operators, (3) Program Production, (4) Television and Cable TV, (5) Campus Broadcasters, (6) Ladies Seminars and (7) Basic Training in Gospel Broadcasting. The four-day convention is January 27-30, 1974.

Highlights of the convention include the Opening Festival of Music featuring Ralph Carmichael and "The Apostle" on Sunday evening, January 27 at 7 P.M., the Congressional Breakfast and FCC Luncheon on Tuesday, January 29 and the 31st Anniversary Banquet on Wedneday evening, January 30 at 7 P.M.

HEBREW CHRISTIANS ON TV, LAW SUIT DROPPED

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—A threatened law suit against WPIX-TV here was cancelled after the station agreed to air a 30-minute debate between a rabbi and a spokesman for The American Board of Missions to the Jews.

The legal action grew out of the April, 1973 cancellation by the station of the program, "Les Crane Reports on Jews for Jesus," sponsored by the American Board of Missions to the Jews.

The station cancelled the program following bomb threats and alleged threats of assassination directed at key WPIX personnel.

Rev. Arnold Fruchtenbaum opened the program with a two-minute statement in which he outlined the position of Hebrew-Christians in America.

Fruchtenbaum admitted the issue was complex and emotional, but he pled for freedom on behalf of Jewish people who found in Jesus Christ the Messiah the answer to their deep spiritual need.

It is paradoxical, the spokesman for The American Board of Missions to the Jews said, that a Jew who proclaims that he is an atheist or an agnostic is still accepted as a Jew. But a Jew who accepts Christ as the Messiah is told that he is no longer Jewish.

EAST GERMAN CLAIMS IT'S EASIER TO BE CHRISTIAN IN HIS COUNTRY

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—It is easier in some ways to be a Christian in East Germany than in the U.S., an official of the Christian Democratic Union in East Germany claimed here.

The reason Karl Ordnung gave for his assertion is that in America Christianity is too easily "confused" with secular culture.

Mr. Ordnung was one of a group of eight overseas church leaders who came to the U.S. on a month-long tour sponsored by the U.S.A. Committee of the Lutheran World Federation.

He said it is not impossible to be a Christian and hold high political office in East Germany. Mr. Ordnung is studies secretary of the Christian Democratic Union, a political party dedicated to "Christian realism" but dependent on the dominant Socialist United Party. He said that the speaker of one house of the East German Parliament, the nation's chief judge and two cabinet ministers are Christian.

Mr. Ordnung conceded that being a Christian active in East German politics is not easy, but he added that it is difficult anywhere to be a Christian in politics.



CHURCH NEWS

LOUISVILLE, OHIO

The Ordination of Charles and Susan Townsend

The First Brethren Church of Louisville elected Charles and Susan Townsend to the deaconate at their congregational business meeting of October 18. Subsequently arrangements were made for their ordination on Sunday, December 9 at the morning worship hour. The service was woven into the fabric of the worship service. Moderator Bill Williams read the call and authorization for ordination by the congregation. Elder Charles Lowmaster examined the candidates and then was assisted by the chairman of the Deacon Board, Glenn McFarland, in consecrating the Townsends by laying on of hands and prayer. Elder Lowmaster laid on hands for the administration of ordination and extended the charge of authority to the deaconate. Deacon McFarland, representing the deaconate, extended a welcome into the deaconate.

The Townsend's have two children, Mrs. Ronald (Cheryl) Miller who lives in Louisville and Kevin who is in Louisville High School. Brother Townsend is an experienced auto mechanic working for the City of Canton and for the local Ford garage.

The prayer of the Louisville Church is that not only our own Church and community, but the whole denomination will be blessed because of the Townsend's willingness to serve in this more demanding area of leadership.

We are grateful to Paul Clapper for the accompanying photos. Paul is director of the Louisville Church Choir and editor-owner of our newspaper, The Louisville Herald.



Charles Lowmaster, Pastor

FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA

The Midwest District had erected a sorely needed shower and rest-room facility at Camp Wyandotte before the camping season started in July. This was appreciated by all involved in the camping program. During a very wet fall season, one of the walls in the newly constructed facility was weakened and threatened to collapse. Two dedicated laymen of the district, Lester Peck and Ralph Scott, pooling their skills and giving of their time labored at the camp for a week to restore the wall. Efforts such as these men put forth deserve all the commendation and gratitude that can be bestowed upon them.

The camping program and Bible School were successful ventures this past year with gratitude being extended to the four girls from the Crusaders who assisted in these programs.

Rev. Elmer Keck and Mrs. Keck shared the visit of their son John and his family as they entertained with music, songs of inspiration and their testimonies. John gave the message at one of the Sunday morning services.

The Midwest District Conference was held at Falls City with the Falls City Brethren Church hosting the assembly. The Conference was well attended and well conducted. Seventy-six were in attendance at the Communion Service.

Home-Coming day was held on November 4 with Rev. Herbert Gilmer of West Alexandria Brethren Church in Ohio opening the event with Revival Services. The power of the Holy Spirit was felt along with His presence as the inspirational messages for which Brother Gilmer is known were presented.

The well attended services were especially interesting as Rev. Gilmer used visual aids along with his verbal messages in proclaiming the Gospel. The mini-bus which conveyed Rev. Gilmer to the mid-west was used also to transport members and visitors to the services. Falls City is happy to announce that a bus has been purchased and two men, Gene Killingsworth and Gene McGinnis have been selected to operate the vehicle in an outreach for many through the bus ministry.

The WMS was invited to participate in a "Prayer and Share Day" hosted by Christian ladies in Sabetha, Kansas. This area workshop was held at the First Congregational Church. It afforded many ladies the opportunity to share Jesus Christ in their everyday lives on this special day.

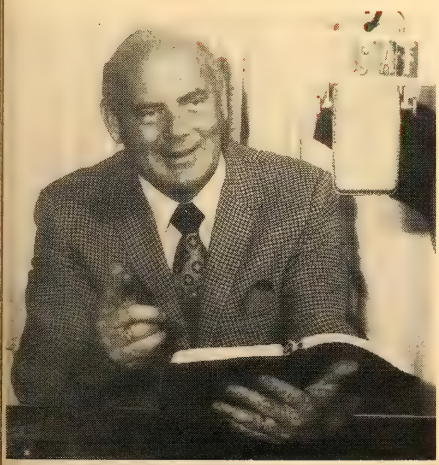
In conjunction with the seminar, missionaries from China and Colombia, South America were present to share many of their experiences with those present.

May we bring this report to a conclusion with a thought for the day: "The will of God is not a burden to carry, but a pillow for to rest and rely upon."

(Details of this news report provided by Ethyl Schroedl)

RADIO MINISTRY OUTREACH

Sarasota, Florida



The opportunity to preach to more people in one day than were one to preach every day of the week in the beautiful sanctuary is to be extended.

The "BRETHREN HOUR" will begin its eighth year on station W.Q.S.A. (formerly W.S.A.F.) at 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings. (1220 On the AM dial.)

Sponsors of the program are: Draperies by Questionati; Robyl Homes of Florida, Inc.; Kropf Eldorado Mobile Home Sales and Airstream Dealer; Ed and Jeanne Martin of Welsh Realtors; and Bob Norwood's Insurance.

The "BRETHREN HOUR" is also heard on W.Q.S.R. at 8 a.m. Sunday mornings (102.5 on F.M.). This 100,000 watt station has a listening range as far south as Miami, Florida and as far north as the state of Georgia. The sponsors of this F.M. program are: Hawkins Funeral Home and Leisure Pools Inc.

The "BRETHREN HOUR" was recently heard for the first time over station W.S.S.T. (Largo) (800 on the AM dial) and will continue to be heard each Saturday morning from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rissler of Leisure Pools, Inc. and Mrs. Art Dickenson of D.W.S. Associates are sponsors of this Saturday Program.

Beginning in January the "BRETHREN HOUR" will also be heard at 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings over station W.K.Z.M. (105.5 on the FM dial). W.K.Z.M., the first Christian Radio Station in Sarasota, Florida is a division of Christian Fellowship Mission, Inc. Mr. Lowell A. Brubaker is manager and director, and Mr. John Hamel is chief engineer and announcer.

World Religious News in Review

SEES PEOPLE SEARCHING FOR RELIGION TURNING TO MYTHS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—As the Apostle Paul warned young Timothy they would,, people today are avidly running after the latest novelties instead of listening to the truth, notes UPI Columnist Louis Cassels.

The advent of myth-seeking "marks the third distinct phase of religious life in America since World War II," Cassels pointed out.

He called Phase One the religious revival during the global war—a revival which lasted 15 years; a new phase began at the start of the 1960's, Cassels declared, opening an era marked by bitter controversy over social action in many churches and radical theology.

He said the dominant characteristic of the phase now underway "is a quest for novelty. Some of its expressions are healthy," he added. The so-called Jesus Movement, he said, brought disenchantment with the institutional church but also new life-styles based on strong personal loyalty to Jesus Christ.

19-YEAR-OLD CATHOLIC HEADS A NEW EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT

SAN JUAN, P.R. (EP)—Pedro Rodriquez, 19, a Roman Catholic preaching an evangelical message, started preaching to crowds in a shopping center two years ago and the movement he founded has grown to include thousands of Puerto Ricans.

Mr. Rodriquez maintains an outdoor "church," an open space in a grove of trees near the San Patricio shopping center. He has a congregation of approximately 600.

The Catacumbas, as they call themselves, are mostly young Catholics although Protestants of many denominations worship with them.

The Catacumbas' outdoor meeting places have logs or cement blocks for seats. People attending carry Bibles. Catholic officials are said to be somewhat divided on the subject of the Catacumbas. Much of the literature they distribute, in fact, consists of Protestant tracts.

Catacumbas is the Spanish word for catacombs, and the movement Rodriquez founded acquired that name because its members met in out-of-the-way places. Quiet, softspoken and determined, they greet each other with a handclasped blessing. They visit the sick, distribute food to the poor and preach informally on street corners and in buses.

AMERICAN LAWYERS CITE CONFUSION CAUSED BY HIGH COURT RULING ON OBSCENITY

NEW YORK (EP) — Delegates attending a "Communications Law Explosion" here were told that the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling on pornography hasn't yet slowed down the flow of so-called obscene materials—but it has definitely given local communities greater power to keep it out of their areas.

"What is happening is that movie makers and publishers are going ahead. Movies are coming out, books are being published. Then they're testing them to see what will happen," said Alan U. Schwartz, a New York lawyer.

CB PROF SEES GURU CHALLENGE TO CHRIST

DENVER, Colo. (EP)—The forces behind the movement promoting a 15-year-old Indian guru "will take a tremendous toll on the Christian church unless it is met with seriousness and care," a professor at Conservative Baptist Seminary believes.

Dr. Gordon Lewis, who teaches systematic theology and Christian philosophy, said Guru Maharaj Ji and his Divine Light Mission "has a public relations program against the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

Professor Lewis pointed out that the organization represents a challenge to the truth of one God and one mediator, which is Jesus Christ.

While attending the autumn "Millenium 73" in the Houston Astrodome, Dr. Lewis observed the Guru and his followers closely.

The organization claims it is not a religion but an experience, but Dr. Lewis sees evidence of Hindu teaching in the young guru's pronouncements.

ADDISON LEITCH DIES AT 81

SOUTH HAMILTON, Mass. (EP)—Dr. Addison H. Leitch, Professor of Theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, passed away Sept. 17 at the age of 81.

Dr. Leitch, an editor-at-large for Christianity Today, was married to the former Betty Elliot whose first husband Jim was one of four missionaries slain by Auca Indians in South America in 1956.

BIG JUMP IN CANADIANS WITH NO RELIGION

OTTAWA (EP)—Canadian citizens who claim they have no religion increased some tenfold in the decade from 1961 to 1971—a much larger jump than those with church affiliation.

"Statistics Canada" officials said census figures indicate that the number of Canadians claiming no religion increased from 94,763 in 1961 to 929,575 in 1971.

The statisticians warned that the apparent splurge in godlessness — most noticeable on Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia—may be deceiving. They said that the 1971 census indicated that for the first time people filled out their own census forms in private, rather than by answering questions asked by a census taker.

"In the past we listed only the hard core atheists and agnostics who didn't mind admitting to anybody what they were," an official explained. "This time, because there was no personal confrontation, people apparently were more honest with themselves and with us."

GASLESS SUNDAYS MAY BE DISGUISED BLESSING

NEW YORK (EP)—Without gasoline, church members may be less inclined to leave town and more ready to attend church, AP Religion Writer George Cornell wrote.

Quoting the president of the National Council of Churches, Dr. Sterling W. Cary, he said the ban on Sunday gasoline sales could replace weekend trips with church-going.

"People may find again their local church, get to know their neighbors, and have time to search again for the values which once made this nation one of hope and trust," the NCC president said.

BAPTIST LEADER CALLS ON CHURCH TO SPEAK BOLDLY ON MORAL CRISIS

NASHVILLE (EP)—A Southern Baptist leader called on the American church to "shed its timidity and speak boldly" on the moral crisis in government.

Dr. Foy Valentine, head of the denomination's Christian Life Commission, also urged Christians to give their support for Leon Jaworski, the new Watergate special prosecutor.

The time has come, he said, for "Christians who share Mr. Jaworski's concern for the rule of law, the efficacy of court orders and justice without special privileges . . . to step forward with supportive words and deeds."

Mr. Jaworski, a Texan, a Presbyterian and the son of a Presbyterian minister, should feel the support of Christians, Dr. Valentine said, "as he takes up the torch so shockingly taken from the hands of his predecessor and as he moves faithfully to carry out his commitment to bring to justice all the law breakers involved in the Watergate and related scandals."

MINNESOTA POLL INTERVIEWS 600 PEOPLE ON BIBLE STORIES: LITERAL OR SYMBOLIC?

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—Adam and Eve were really people and Jesus literally walked on the water, in the opinion of most Minnesotans interviewed by the Minneapolis Tribune's Minnesota Poll.

The account of Jonah and the whale, however, is symbolic rather than literal, according to a majority of the 600 residents questioned about the way they interpret the Bible.

Slightly more than half of the respondents in the survey believe the question of whether biblical accounts are literally true or symbolic is an important one.

"It can happen that a literal interpretation of the Bible gets stressed too strongly," said a Lutheran Wilkin County pastor, 65, who thought the question was important. "But people have a way of twisting things into what they want them to mean," he added.

A 23-year-old Minneapolis payroll clerk, a Baptist, disagreed. "Whether Bible stories are truly true or not isn't as important as belief in God," she said.

Sixty-seven per cent of those interviewed said the Biblical account of Jesus walking on the water was literally true, 28 per cent said it was symbolic, and 5 per cent had no opinion or gave other answers.

BEN-GURION HAILED AS 'IMPLACABLE FATHER OF ISRAEL'

NEW YORK (EP)—Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, has eulogized the late David Ben-Gurion as "the stalwart and implacable father of Israel." Ben-Gurion died in Tel Aviv Nov. 30.

The NCCJ president referred to the first premier of modern Israel as one whose "selfless spirit and indomitable will" were responsible for the establishment of the Jewish state.

"All of the constituency of the National Conference of Christians and Jews join with their Jewish brothers and sisters of Israel in mourning the great loss of David Ben-Gurion," Dr. Hyatt stated.

CASH AND CARTER PREMIER BENEFITS YFC CLUBS

SEATTLE (EP)—The premier here of "The Gospel Road," featuring producer Johnny Cash and his wife June Carter, contributed all proceeds to the Seattle Youth for Christ and Campus Life clubs.

Cash filmed the movie in Israel as the story of a dream fulfilled. His wife awoke one morning while in Israel in 1966 and exclaimed to her husband, "I dreamed I saw you standing on a mountain top with a Bible in your hand, talking about Jesus."

Just such a scene opens the popular film described by Cash as "very personal, very emotional."

PRAYER CONFERENCE CALLED

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP)—Sensing a need to revitalize prayer in churches throughout the nation, three Los Angeles-area Christian leaders have announced plans for the "Church Prayer Revitalization Conference."

Calling the conference is the Rev. Armin R. Gesswein, director of the Ministers' Prayer Fellowship; Dr. William R. Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ International; and Dr. W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision International. Numerous other Christian organization leaders already have indicated their desire to cooperate.

The conference, designed for pastors, ministers, prayer groups and other church group leaders and executives, will take place at the Campus Crusade's Arrowhead Springs Hotel in San Bernardino March 11-13.

"It will not be just another conference," stated Gesswein, who has been named conference chairman, "but a coming together of leaders who will both stimulate fresh insights into biblical principals of prayer and lead in prayer action."

'APPOINTMENT WITH GOD,' MAO TELLS DIPLOMATS

PEKING (EP)—Startling words came from the father of the atheistic People's Republic of China recently.

To visiting diplomats in Communist China, Chairman Mao Tse-tung admitted, "I have an appointment with God."

The officials concluded that Mao can no longer take part in the day-to-day affairs of the Chinese government because of illness.

COMPLACENCY HELD GREATEST THREAT TO OBSERVANCE OF SABBATH

PHILADELPHIA (EP)—A Lutheran editor has warned that the greatest danger to proper Sunday observance comes not from those who oppose such practices but from those who are complacent about the matter.

Dr. Albert P. Stauderman, editor of The Lutheran (semi-monthly magazine of the Lutheran Church in America), discusses the history of Sunday observance and offers some suggestions for obeying the Fourth Commandment in an article titled "What Should I Do On Sunday?" published in the Dec. 5 issue.

He presents several quotations from Martin Luther to the effect that although Christians don't need a special day to worship God, it is good to set aside Sunday for practical purposes of community observance. "This will take different forms with different people," Dr. Stauderman writes, "but no one has the right to destroy our heritage."

The editor warns, however, that "the biggest damage to Sunday comes not from those who would arbitrarily take away a day of rest and worship, but rather from those who are complacent or indifferent about it. If we prefer what (LCA President) Dr. Robert Marshall recently called 'armchair religion,' like sitting back and watching a revival service on television, we shouldn't be too surprised if we have traded away something precious for a mess of pottage."

CHARITABLE GIFTS OF NIXONS ARE NOTED IN REPORT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—President and Mrs. Nixon's largest single charitable gift between 1969 and 1972 was $4,500 given to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, according to tax records made public here.

The donation was made in 1970, the year the President made a widely publicized appearance at a Graham Crusade in Knoxville, Tenn.

The First Family's income tax returns for the four year period were issued by the White House along with a request to a joint congressional committee to determine if the President owes additional taxes for deductions claimed for the donation of his vice presidential papers to the National Archives. A deduction of $576,000 was made for the papers.

Several other religious and religion-related institutions and groups appear on the list of deductible contributions. In 1969, the Chief Executive gave $250 to the East Whittier (Calif.) Friends church, the Quaker meeting in which he holds membership, and $500 to Whittier College, a Quaker-related school he attended.

Of the $3,150 claimed in deductions in 1969, $100 went to Duke University, the United Methodist school where Mr. Nixon received his law degree. Gifts of $1,000 each went to the Red Cross Telethon and the United Givers Fund in 1969.

For the year 1970, the President contributed a total of $7,512, according to the tax records. In addition to the $4,500 to the Graham Association, $1,000 was earmarked for the Baptist Community Hospital, $250 for the East Whittier YMCA and $250 for the Duke University Loyalty Fund.

The East Whittier Friends church received $1,000 of the $2,524 claimed as deductible contribution in 1971, and the Duke Loyalty Fund got $500. Mr. Nixon also gave $500 to the United Negro College Fund.

In 1972, the President contributed $200 to the Southern California School of Theology, an institution with multiple denominational ties in Claremont. He also gave $50 to the Marble Collegiate church in New York City, the congregation headed by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and where the Nixon family has often attended worship.

A gift of $20 in 1972 went to Holy Rosary church. In 1972, total deductible contributions claimed were $295.

From 1969 to 1972, the President claimed slightly more than $13,000 in charitable contributions, excluding the estimated value of the vice presidential papers. During the four years, the First Family had an adjusted gross income of $1,122,264, on which a total of $78,650 in federal income tax was paid.

Other recipients on the tax returns for the four years included the National Symphony, the American Legion, Eisenhower Medical Center, the American Heart Association, the TV Memorial Fund, the Boys Club of America, the TV and Respiratory Association, the Orthodontal Society, the U.C.L.A. Alumni Association, the Connecticut Preservation and Restoration Commission, and Patients' Assistance League and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association.

ELO TO SHARE IN SPONSORING MEDIA CONFERENCE ON ISLAM

WHEATON, Ill. (EP)—The Christian Communications Council will sponsor a four-day seminar with Evangelical Literature Overseas on the use of the media to Islam February at Marseilles, France.

ELO and International Christian Broadcasters (ICB) were commissioned by the Council to organize, develop and implement the seminar designed to analyze the cultural and religious resistance factors to the Christian message, particularly that which is communicated through radio and print.

The Christian Communications Council is a fellowship of nine communications' agencies concerned with a coordinated effort to develop the media as an effective instrument for communicating the Gospel.

The Marseilles seminar will bring key leadership representing radio and literature ministries in the Middle East and North Africa specifically. The content of the seminar will be divided between cultural and religious studies of Islam and the analysis of the content now used to communicate the Gospel to the Muslim mind, according to ELO's James L. Johnson.

Anchor men for the seminar responsible for defining and illuminating the conflicts of the Muslim to Christianity are: Dr. G.N.D. Anderson, Director of Advanced legal studies, University of London. Dr. Anderson's field specifically is the law as governing the Muslim in his own culture. Serving with him is Dr. G. Christy Wilson, who for 20 years served in Afghanistan and whose life ministry has been among Muslims.

"We are definitely seeking some concrete guidelines that can be implemented for more effective communication to Muslims through the media," Johnson said. "We want broadcasters and publishers to leave Marseilles with new insights into the Muslim mind and perhaps more workable concepts for creating greater interest and receptivity to the message."

Hopefully the seminar will become a model for the projection of similar study groups in other continents who have Muslim populations with their own distinctive cultural cleavage.

'EXCESSIVE DRINKING' HIT BY PRESIDENT OF ZAMBIA

LUSAKA, Zambia (EP) — Zambia's President Kenneth D. Kaunda "broke down and cried" as he spoke of the problem of "excessive drinking" in his country.

A Lusaka Radio report said Mr. Kaunda even threatened to resign as president unless Zambians "changed their drinking habits."

Mr. Kaunda, a devout member of the United Church of Zambia, addressed an assembly of church, civic, and tribal leaders in Mansa.

The broadcast quoted the president as declaring that the people of Zambia had been indulging in "excessive drinking" for too long, and that, "if this continued, Zambia would be finished as a nation."

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from Have A Good Day

Your calendar shows the passing of time; your face and character show what you did with it.

from the Bethlehem Brethren bulletin

POETRY CORNER

"WHAT MOST WE NEED"

If any trial seems hard to bear,
Help will come and relief from strain;
If you believe the Lord does care
Even though the trial remains.
The answer to the prayer may be
As it was to Paul—if we just read;
Not the removal of the thorn
But just the help that **we most need.**
If your prayer is not a selfish one,
A listening ear is always there,
Strength to work till a task is done
Forgiveness for sin in every prayer.
Among so many, how can He
Remember each one in a special way?
How can the Lord look down and see
Every sheep that has gone astray?
This we often wonder about—
How He can watch us night and day,
And give us even more without
Hearing things we do not say!

Helen Barnhart

I Kings 3:13—"And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked."

from Collection, "Words of Comfort."
Copyright (C) Helen Barnhart 1973

"AS HE LEADETH"

Do the work just for that hour,
Though the duty be hard for you,
He alone can give the power,
Listen close and follow through.
Always walking in the light,
Always given, words to speak,
You must work with all your might,
He'll give help—if you just seek.
Use the instincts of your heart,
Talk of One who loves us all,
If you have the faith to start,
He'll pick you up—each time you fall.
The task will be completed soon,
He carries part of every load,
You can sing a happy tune,
Walking down that narrow road.

Helen Barnhart

Ps. 31:3—For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me and guide me.

from Collection, "Words of Comfort."
Copyright (C) Helen Barnhart 1973

TO A DISEASE GERM

You! Ugly wee disease germ!
Knocked at my door one day.
My Host—my Savior—saw you call
And would not let you stay!

Persistently, you knocked again
And entrance sought to gain;
Until the Lord permitted it
Your calling was in vain.

Then came a time my Savior found
Some work for you to do!
He let the door swing just a crack—
Your ugly form crept through!

Your painful samples you unpacked,
Each wrapped with grief and gloom,
Discouragement hung over me,
No sun could reach my room!

My tidy house was chaos now,
My host must be away;
Distrust and doubts sneered at my soul
As pain—deep pain—held sway.

"Oh! why do You permit this, Lord?"
My spirit seemed to sigh;
No understanding could I sense—
No answer to my cry!

Then o'er my spirit came a hush!
(My Host was with me now)
A soothing Hand of tender love
Was placed upon my brow!

"This thing is sent from Me," He said,
"Oh, don't be crushed with fears!"
Then, in my heart I saw Him!
His face was wet with tears.

You love me, Lord, I see it—
This suffering—can it be
This pain and woe afflicting me
Were borne as well by Thee?"

Then all this must be needed
These pains—of worth untold—
These weights are wings to fly with Thee
And glimpse the street of gold!

Forgive me, Lord for sighing,
About this mortal clay—
Help me to soar the heavenlies
And trust Thee, come what may!

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AN OLD MAN'S PRAYER

Lord, I am safe with you;
never let me be defeated!
Because you are righteous, help me and rescue me.
Listen to me and save me!
Be my secure shelter,
and a strong fortress to protect me;
you are my refuge and defense.

My God, rescue me from wicked men,
from the power of cruel and evil men.
Lord, I put hope in you;
I have trusted in you since I was young.
I have relied on you all my life;
you have protected me since I was born;
I will always praise you!

My life has been a mystery to many,
but you are my strong defender.
All day long I praise you
and proclaim your glory.
Do not reject me now that I am old;
do not abandon me now that I am feeble!

My enemies want to kill me;
they talk and plot against me.
They say, "God has abandoned him;
let us go after him and catch him,
because there is no one to rescue him!"

Don't stay so far away, God;
my God, help me now!
May those who attack me
be defeated and destroyed!
May those who try to hurt me
be shamed and disgraced!
I will always put my hope in you;
I will praise you more and more.

I will tell of your righteousness;
all day long I will speak of your salvation,
though it is more than I can understand.
I will praise your power, Lord God;
I will proclaim your righteousness,
yours alone.

You have taught me ever since I was young,
and I still tell of your wonderful acts.
Now that I am old and my hair is gray,
do not abandon me, God!
Be with me while I proclaim your power and might
to all generations to come.

Your righteousness, God, reaches the skies.
You have done great things;
there is no one like you!



I am old and my hair is gray

You have sent troubles and suffering on me,
but you will restore my strength;
you will keep me from the grave.

You will make me greater than ever;
you will comfort me again.
I will indeed praise you with the harp;
I will praise your faithfulness, my God.
On my harp I will play hymns to you,
the Holy One of Israel.

I will shout for joy as I play for you;
with my whole being I will sing,
because you have saved me.
I will speak of your righteousness all day long,
because those who tried to harm me
have been defeated and disgraced.

Psalm 71 from the Today's English Version of the New Testament. Copyright (c) American Bible Society 1966, 1971.

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EVANGELIST



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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

Recently a letter was received by the editor from Mrs. Della Davis of Sarasota, Florida who is the author of two poems which were published in past issues of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST.

The article entitled, Praise The Lord for Modern Day Good Samaritans which accompanied this letter brought to the editor a period of nostalgia of his former career as a "knight of the road" for almost 30 years.

As I read the article the odor of diesel fuel seemed to permeate my sense of smell momentarily and remind me of quite a few incidents, some humorous and some not humorous at all and not easily blocked out of the memory bank.

Mrs. Davis' article was prompted by the prayers, laughter and tears shared with their son who also has a love for the "big rigs" as a driver with nearly 2 million miles accumulated during the past 19 years.

I feel that I am not alone in expressing my appreciation for the two-fold purpose which Mrs. Davis had in mind as she wrote this article. Her letter states that she hopes it would stimulate a generous amount of tolerance and love toward the majority of these men who are responsible for the transportation of practically everything w eat, wear and utilize in our homes. Also, to e courage those of our readers who may be of th "over the road" group to be witnesses for th Lord wherever their journeys over the vast ne work of asphalt and concrete may take them.

The article referred to is published on page thre of this issue and in behalf of the many men have had the privilege to consider as very dea friends throughout half of my life I wish to e press my personal appreciation to Mrs. Davis fo her sentiments. (Editor)

A special Library Offer is being introduced i this issue on publications written by the late D Albert T. Ronk. Details of this offer are presente on the back cover of this issue. The supply o the free book is limited.

By the Way

PRAISE THE LORD FOR MODERN DAY GOOD SAMARITANS

I am a woman and I have a story to tell. We are confronted with a problem every time we go out on the highways, and we have traveled on them from the east to the west coast and from Canada to Mexico. As we travel we continually hear strong criticism and even cursing of the operators of the "highway box cars," or the "over-the-road technicians" as these truck drivers jokingly call themselves. I am sad when I hear them unduly criticized by fellow motorists.

Does your disposition show as you are perhaps compelled to stay behind one of these large vehicles for a few miles, not being able to see over, under or through them? If it does show, what is it showing most? Could it be love and understanding, or just plain contempt and nastiness? It is said that a person's true character comes through when he—or she—gets behind the steering wheel of an automobile. Many a Christian who would not think of missing a church service, or a prayer meeting, is more than a little disturbed when he finds himself in this position behind a moving semi-tractor and trailer, going down the road a little slower than is his usual speed. I'm afraid the indignation he shows is not always righteous. Slowing down is good for us sometimes and, while we are going slower, consider some of the facts of this man's life. He is entrusted with a tremendous responsibility. I say entrusted because he must prove himself trustworthy to operate such a vehicle and be responsible for its cargo reaching its destination safely and in the shortest, safest, period of time. In many of our states the allowed length of these rigs is 65 feet. This size when loaded to capacity weighs over 73,000 lbs. One tire mounted on the wheel may weigh as much as the driver himself, and there are at least 18 of those tires. The 12 to 14 gears make it necessary for him to be continually climbing from one gear to the next to the next, and when they are slowed down unnecessarily by a thoughtless motorist they may drive 12 to 15 miles before regaining their rolling speed. So these jobs are not filled by a bunch of empty-headed (whatever you may have called them as you were forced to slow down behind them.)

Their signs and signals have a language in themselves, and we could profit by learning their language. The man riding in that cab is a lonely man in many ways, and is glad to speak through his signs and light signals. He will also break the monotony of his day by delighting the heart of a child in a passing car who is desperately animating a request for him to blow the big air horns. Yes, these men have human traits. Their hearts are as big as the vast land that they cover. There are some of whom the rest are not proud, the same as the numbers on our church rolls of whom our pastors are not proud, but in both cases I'm sure they are in the minority.

These men also have souls, and I am made to wonder how many people have ever shared the love of God through Jesus Christ with them. Instead of wishing them off the road, how many have sincerely prayed for them, for their safety, for their families, and for their spiritual welfare?

Their opportunities of service to their fellow man cover a wide area, and most of them are eager to lend a helping hand, as in the cases of the following incidents:

It was night. A car in the distance was in trouble. Approaching the scene, the huge truck slowed and stopped. The car had burnt out the whole motor and the family of four was in distress. They had tried in vain for two hours to stop someone who would help them, even if only to telephone help from the nearest town, but all "passed by on the other side." They were many hundred miles from home and the area was all strange to them. This can be pretty frightening at night. No one wanted to take the chance of becoming involved. Then the truck driver came along and stopped. The car had to be towed to a garage, and this he did with his own truck. This was his home stretch from a three day run. The family had to have a place to stay and he helped them get settled in a motel room. During their forced stay of three days in the strange town, this driver and his wife had them in their home different times. As they were ready to leave on their homeward way the wife and mother said,

(*continued on next page*)

"I told John that night, if anyone would ever stop to help, it would be a truck driver. God bless him!"

Another incident: It was late in March 1973. Winter was in the throes of death and heaving one last breath of ice and snow across Interstate 80 in eastern Wyoming. The drifts were forming in ever growing ripples across the pavement until they looked like waves on the ocean. They became increasingly deeper and harder to hurdle as the storm lashed out its fury against all travelers who found themselves on the road that day. Busses, cars, and trucks alike picked their way carefully as long as it was possible to move. Down this road, moving ever so slowly, was the inevitable highway box car—a semi-truck with two trailers—windshield wipers flapping at a rapid speed to enable the driver to see through a small opening into the dense mixture of ice and snow whirling about him. The storm intensified until all traffic was stopped. This condition prevailed for nineteen and a half hours, making it necessary for all occupants to stay in their respective vehicles as a protection from the storm.

The driver of this big truck settled down to the deafening quiet of the cubicle of his truck cab, which was to be his shelter for the duration. With his ear trained on his small radio, he was also alert for any movement about him. After several hours of this tense situation, he thought he saw a dim object moving within yards of his truck. He put on all the warm clothing and the boots that he had with him to make the descent from the cab and investigate the goings on in the outside world. He was astonished to find that a small car had slid off the road, and a family with four small children were desparately in need of help. They were from sunny California and were hardly prepared for this devastating experience. With great difficulty, against 50 m.p.h. winds, each child was taken and helped into that truck cab. The parents, too, were helped as they entered the temporary shelter which was to be their mecca for the next 10 hours. The motor was run sparingly to conserve fuel but at the same time furnish some warmth from the extreme cold.

What do you do with seven people in a truck cab for ten hours? Fortunately the children could sleep some in the sleeper bunk and, in the meantime, the parents and driver had time to discuss many subjects and to share their faith and encouragement with one another.

This driver, as a child, had often heard the story of the Good Samaritan, never dreaming he would some day be tested for the part. And now, except for the difference in locale and circumstances, he was confronted with the same concern—the welfare of others. He did the best he could to keep them comfortable and the children entertained. It was not until snowmobiles were sent out the next day from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to rescue all victims of the storm, that he released the family from his protection.

These are but two incidents of mercy on the road, but I am sure that there are hundreds of truck operators across this great land that have reacted in such a manner of love and concern for their fellow man. So the next time you are tempted and tried, please don't curse or criticize them but smile and wave and help brighten their day. Lastly, breathe a prayer for them that they may be ready physically, mentally, and spiritually to meet any situation that arises.

Praise the Lord for Modern Day Good Samaritans.

Della Davis



New Books

Arousing the Sleeping Giant, by Robert K. Hudnut, 186 pages on how to organize your church for action. Harper & Row, $5.95.

The Total Woman, by Marabel Morgan, a marriage enrichment course in book form. Revell, $5.95.

Stop the World I Want To Get On, by C. Peter Wagner, describes every Christian as a witness but **not** a missionary. Regal, $1.95.

You Can Become the Person You Want To Be, by Robert H. Schuller, thoughts on overcoming negative thinking, Hawthorn, $5.95.

GLOOM AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE '74 FORECAST BY FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY PRESIDENT

GLENDALE, Calif. (EP)—Leaving the sensational reporting and political speculation to others, the president of Food for the Hungry has issued nine predictions for 1974 which he considers realistic.

Dr. Larry Ward said despite the "harsh, dirty, unpleasant, unrealistic world of hunger in which he lives, he preaches hope in Jesus Christ beyond the trials of the immediate. His predictions for 1974:

—A major natural disaster of international proportions early in 1974. (We are never more than about six months away from a major disaster. In the last century earthquakes alone have claimed over 900,000 lives.)

—Shortages—real, imagined, rumored, fabricated—of many different kinds, increasing in number as 1974 continues and provoking violent protests and pendulumic backlash controls. (Hoarding will lead to numerous localized problems and incidents of violence in the United States.)

—A growing interest in biblical prophecy on the part of the general public, including the unchurches and leading to mass media interest. Eschatological speculation will focus on the person of the anti-Christ prophesied in Scripture.

—A definite, documented UFO incident before year-end '74, leading to official acknowledgement of UFO activity . . . sparking congressional demands for action . . . leading to unusual cooperation among world bodies . . . resulting in a totally new consideration: that UFO visits are not extra-terrestrial probes but overt demonic manifestations adapted to 20th Century cultural context and linked with anti-Christ activity.

—Continuing drought and famine crises in Africa and the India/Bangladesh Sub-Continent, with the threat of widespread epidemics resulting from long-term malnutrition. A new "hunger front" looming elsewhere in the world.

—A major crop crisis in the U.S., which—coupled with rising prices and fears of shortage—leads to serious consideration of food rationing. Sharp increase in "food minus" areas elsewhere, with scattered food riots. Sri Lanka (Ceylon) has recently introduced public whipping as a penalty for stealing scarce foods. Watch instances such as this multiply.

—Continued climatological changes throughout the world, such as the 30-mile-a-year southward growth of the Sahara Desert. Continued drift in 1974 toward the threatened return of 18th Century weather, with scientists warning that "there will be glacial conditions in America within the next 100 years."

—Against the dark backdrop of shortages, hoarding, riots, reprisals—the rise of a new spirit of caring and sharing in the developed nations, sparked both by youth returning to the open-hearted idealism of pioneer days, and by children rising up in a spontaneous expression of love and concern.

—Churches of evangelical, conservative . . . persuasion will rediscover the mission of the church to "the whole man" and proclaim with new insight the sublime simplicity of scriptural solution to shortages and human need: "If you have extra food, give it away to those who are hungry" (Luke 3:11).

BILLY GRAHAM SEES U.S. FACING GRAVE CRISIS SPURRED BY 'DISINTEGRATION FROM WITHIN'

NEW YORK (EP)—Evangelist Billy Graham has warned in a national television address that America is facing the most dangerous crisis of its history—"disintegration from within."

In his unprecedented New Year's Eve appearance, which was telecast on some 350 CBS affiliates at different times, the evangelist declared that "we enter 1974 with tens of millions of Americans confused, discouraged, cynical, afraid, and disillusioned."

After listing such events of 1973 as Watergate, the Middle East war and the energy crisis, Mr. Graham asserted, "No one can deny the fact that our nation faces one of the gravest crises of its history." He acknowledged that the nation had faced serious crises during the Revolutionary War, the Constitutional Convention, and the Civil War, but said, "now we face what I believe to be the most dangerous crisis in all of our history."

This is the case, the evangelist commented, because "in virtually all of the past crises, with the exception of the Civil War, our nation was confronted by external threats. But today we face the greatest of all threats—disintegration from within."

Mr. Graham noted that some persons have accused him of "being a moral alarmist who leans on the panic button." But, he added, "I have traveled over the world too much, talked privately to many of our national leaders, and sifted the fears and concerns of the average American too many times to be overly optimistic about the state of the nation."

The evangelist cautioned that "the worst course of action would be to bury our heads in the sand and shrink or hide from the dangers that threaten to engulf us."

World Religious News in Review

CHURCH PAPERS HOLD DIM HOPE FOR POSTAL RELIEF

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Relief through legislation appears to be dim now as non-profit mailers face the escalating postal rate burden to begin early in 1974, according to EPA Postal Representative Russell T. Hitt.

James Doyle, executive secretary of the Catholic Press Association, testified before the Cost of Living Council as a representative also of Association Church Press, the American Jewish Press, and the Evangelical Press Association.

The press representatives of religious publishers concentrated on per-piece surcharge areas because pound rate increases are not as onerous as the scheduled per-piece surcharges, Hitt explained. He said the press representatives thought the Cost of Living Council might respond to a reduction of the surcharge rates because "they are so patently and obviously unfair to our religious non-profit press."

When asked by the Cost of Living Council what rate structure the non-profits could live with, the press representatives put forward the following proposal of reducing the per piece surcharge by 50 per cent:

Per-piece surcharge rates:

Postal Service	Proposal	Proposal
1973	.3	.3
1974	.4/.6	.4
1975	.8	.5
1976	1.1	.6
1977	1.3	.7
1978	1.5	.8
1979	1.7	.9
1980	2.0	1.0
1981	2.2	1.1

"At the moment the prospect of relief through legislation looks dim," Hitt observed. "Washington is virtually paralyzed today. It is amazing how the vast government colossus is muscle-bound by the lack of White House leadership."

He indicated there was little hope for a revival of the ill-fated Hanley bill (HR 8929) in this session, a measure upon which non-profit mailers had hung their hopes earlier in the year.

'REPENT OR PERISH' BILLY GRAHAM WARNS IN FIFTH WHITE HOUSE SERMON

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The United States is in "deep spiritual trouble," and each citizen must "repent or perish," Evangelist Billy Graham said in a Dec. 16 pre-Christmas sermon at the White House worship service.

Preaching to an audience which included the President, Vice President Ford, their wives and members of Congress, Dr. Graham said he believes America "stands on the threshold of Divine judgment today. Morally, socially, economically, politically and spiritually we are in deep trouble," he said. "We must reorder our priorities. We all admit that we need some sweeping social reforms—and in true repentance we must determine to do something about it. But our greatest need is a change in heart."

The evangelist said nearly everyone he talks to "seems to sense that a hurricane is about to break on the world of cataclysmic proportions." The real message of Christmas, he declared, was the promise of a second coming of the Messiah.

The Army Chorus sang at the service, standing in for the 14-member Yale Choir because the Connecticut men had refused to give assurances that they would not do anything to embarrass the President.

DIVORCE RATE GAINING ON MARRIAGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Nearly two old marital unions are being terminated in the courts for every five new ones contracted at the altar, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

In its latest report on births, marriages, divorces and deaths, there were 1,727,000 marriages in the U.S. and 678,000 divorces. This is a ration of one divorce for each 2.56 marriages.

Marriages and divorce are both up this year over last, but the increase in divorces was much greater than that in marriages.

The national divorce rate, expressed in number of divorces per year per 1,000 population, is continuing a long, steady rise, the report reveals. The rate was 3.4 in 1970, 3.6 in 1971, 4.0 in 1972 and 4.3 in 1973.

RABBI SAYS TEMPLE WILL BE REBUILT SOME DAY

HOUSTON (EP)—The hope of rebuilding the ancient Jewish temple in Jerusalem is still very much alive, but no Israeli official or religious leader in Judaism plans to construct it now, said the head Orthodox rabbi in the United States.

Rebuilding the temple on its original site would require the removal of the Moslem's Mosque of Omar (Dome of the Rock). That would have serious international repercussions since the Moslems consider the mosque a sacred place, Rabbi David B. Hollander explained.

"When will the messiah come?" he was asked.

"Every day we pray for his coming," the President of the (Orthodox) Rabbinical Alliance of America said.

MIDDLE EAST CRISIS ACCELERATES BIBLICAL PROPHECY, HAL LINDSEY NOTES

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. (EP)—The oil crisis in Arab-Israel conflict over Old Jerusalem "make the prophetic pattern immediately preceding the Second Coming even closer than I thought a year ago."

Lindsey, author of the best-selling book on biblical prophecy, The Late Great Planet Earth, told New York Times reporter E. Russell Chandler that he believes the Israelis will not sacrifice the old sector of the city, which was unified in June of 1967 under Jewish sovereignty for the first time in 1,897 years.

"There is no way the Israelis will give Old Jerusalem up," Author Lindsey stated in the interview. "It's non-negotiable. They would rather see their nation destroyed.

The Dallas Seminary graduate advances evidence that Jesus will return to judge and rule the world in this generation. "The Arabs and Israelis are drawing in the whole world," he told the Times. "Arab possession of proven oil resources is the key. . . . Tension revolves around the Arab summit demand of the return of all Arab lands, including Old Jerusalem."

The 41-year-old former Mississippi riverboat captain said sales of his book have reached the five million mark. A sequel titled, "There's a New World Coming," sold 400,000 copies the first month out. A third book sandwiched in between the two titled, Satan Is Alive and Well on Planet Earth, has sold two million copies.

Dr. Dwight Pentecost, a professor of Bible exposition at Dallas, concurred with the Lindsey viewpoint. "What I see is in perfect harmony with the Scripture," eschatological Pentecost told Chandler. Citing the 38th and 39th chapters of Ezekiel, and the 11th chapter of the book of Daniel, he said Arab nations, allied strongly with Russia, "pose a great threat against Israel. . . . Israel is looking more and more to the West for help."

This, he explained, will drive European nations closer together, and then Russia and the Arab nations will move in and overrun Israel. These events, according to both Dr. Pentecost and Mr. Lindsey, will immediately precede the Second Advent.

"No one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return," Lindsey cautioned, referring to Bible passages. "But Jesus said the generation which sees these things come to pass would not see death, but would indeed see the coming of the Lord ahead of unprecedented judgment that would fall on the unbelieving world."

CREDIT CARD GIVING LAUNCHED BY CHURCH

BUFFALO, N.Y. (EP) — A Roman Catholic church here has started accepting credit cards in lieu of cash donations.

The Church of the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary launched the plan as a means of increasing its income. Paul Totaro, a member of the finance committee, said credit cards aid parishioners in budgeting fixed amounts for church contributions.

SBC PRESIDENT ADVOCATES SIX-DAY BUSINESS WEEK

NASHVILLE (EP)—Owen Cooper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and a retired industrialist, said here that he favors a voluntary six-day business week as an energy-conserving measure.

"The number of businesses open on the Lord's Day, such as energy-consuming shopping centers in full operation and large quantities of gasoline still consumed in pursuit of the secular, not only strikes a blow at the American home but also gives a boost for 'Mammon' at the expense of God,' " Cooper said.

He indicated that most people work only five days, and the sixth day could be used for shopping and personal business. He called on all people who recognize Saturday or Sunday or any other day as the "Lord's Day" to voluntarily help preserve that day's religious significance for them.

QUAKER COMMITTEE RAPS AWARD OF NOBEL PRIZE TO KISSINGER

PHILADELPHIA (EP)—The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for his role in the Vietnam cease-fire has drawn criticism from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a 1947 recipient of the Prize.

The Quaker group charged that the 1973 Peace Prize "has been given to honor the end of a war that has not ended, to men whose power comes not from their humanitarianism or their witness to the sanctity of life, but rather from their nations' capacity to kill and destroy."

Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam, with whom Dr. Kissinger was to share the award, declined to accept, at least until peace in Vietnam is established, the Quakers said.

"Mr. Kissinger may yet, if he wills it, help bring peace to Vietnam," the Quaker statement said. Without his initiatives, "the war and suffering will continue as they have continued since the January 'cease-fire.' This we know first-hand because the maimed and the dying still pour into our Quaker medical center in Quang Ngai in undimimished numbers."

The AFSC said "what is called for now in Vietnam is peace that is peace, and not war in the name of peace. Henry Kissinger can now begin to help achieve it. To do so would be a far greater honor than receiving a prize for negotiations that have failed to bring peace."

'WE LOVE YOU' IN LEAVES BLESSES AILING MOM

NEW ORLEANS (EP)—The seven children of Mrs. Raymond McCarry were too young to visit their mother in the hospital, but they got their message to her just the same.

On the lawn below the ailing mother's window her children spelled out "Mama we love you" in leaves, circled by a giant heart also fashioned by fallen leaves.

Mrs. McCarry is a patient at the Ochsner Foundation Hospital in New Orleans where she is undergoing tests.

MISSIONARY NEWS

NEW STRUCTURAL TENT READY TO GO!

Report from Argentina

After a long wait, the Argentine workers were ready to start during the month of November and throughout the summer months (here south of the equator), special campaigns and efforts with the brand new, colorful tent.



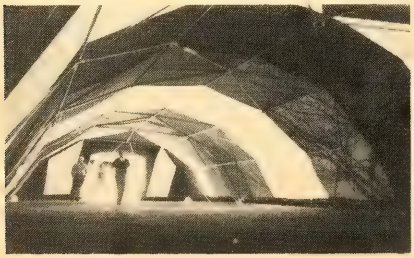
Structural framework for the tent going up.

The Argentine Missionary Council had planned and worked with a Brethren layman who is a tent maker, to make the first tent of this type in Argentina. The frame is made completely out of aluminum pipes, each approximately six feet long, so that they will lay flat in the bed of our brand new pick-up truck. The pipe connections are almost all the same and those that are different are marked with different colors to prevent errors in erecting the tent.

The top, made of a very light canvas with stripes about five feet wide in bright blue and orange so that people can see it from a long distance, is very attractive. Missionary Bill Winter has just finished the installation of flourescent fixtures which will add that much more when used at night. The tent can be opened at both ends and on the sides when necessary to accommodate more people and for ventilation as needed.

This tent, with the pick-up truck which has had a cabin added over the bed for better protection of the tent and equipment, plus the Evangelistic Mobile Equipment (the Audio-Visual trailer) should give us the best tools we have ever had for evangelism and church extension.

Pray for the efforts during the summer months. We believe that if you pray with us as we work with these tools, we will be reporting to you great results for the Glory and Honor of our Lord and Saviour.



Interior of the new campaign tent for Argentina.



A new tool for evangelism ready for use!

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



A TALL ORDER

"What's a good thing that could happen to you this Christmas season?" That was the question posed on the first Sunday in Advent at Brethren House. The adults that were gathered for worship that day pondered. Then one spoke, a mother of four who attends with her husband and children each Sunday.

"I want my children to learn the deeper meaning of Christmas. We all need it too. I want them to learn there is more than just Santa Claus. And I'm counting on Brethren House to teach them this."

That's a big order, but it is our goal. With all of the emphasis on stuff and getting that kids are bombarded with on the television, in newspapers, and in the stores, we don't even have equal time (or resources). But our product has more quality.

Heeding the directives in the Old Testament to "teach them (Deut. 6:4-5) diligently to your children, and . . . talk of them when you sit . . . when you walk . . . when you lie down . . . when you rise . . . bind them as a sign upon your hand . . . as frontlets between your eyes . . . write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates," we will do our utmost to bombard their senses with the message of Christmas. The walls, the ceiling, the tables, the floor will all become space for advertising God's love in Christ available for all (no energy crisis with God's love).

Christian adults will guide, encourage, enable, and explain when needed to assure each child an opportunity to receive love and understanding. Love, forgiveness, and patience will be practiced when children don't deserve God's love. This way grace will be enacted. Oh, this enactment will fail many times, but we trust God will guide the growth of the teachers in this very difficult area of curriculum.

Yes, Brethren House exists, not only to teach the deeper meaning of Christmas, but the true meaning of life: investing all of one's resources into extending God's love. May God help us to become equipped for the job.

—Jean

MEMORIALS

LIVING MEMORIALS constitute a good stewards' way to honor loved ones and help to expand the outreach of missions.

LIVING MEMORIALS can consist of a gift from an individual, relatives, group of friends, or a series of gifts through a local church.

When a living memorial is received at the Missionary Board, a memorial card is sent to the family of the deceased, when we are advised, letting them know their loved one has been memorialized.

The following who have gone home to the Lord have been honored in the year 1973:

Bryan Church, Woman's Missionary Society in remembrance of Mary Hineman.

Mr. Thomas Bowie, son of Mrs. Harriet Welch, Washington, D.C. memorialized.

Memorial gift from the Falls City Church was offered for a scholarship to Riverside Christian Training School students in loving memory of Florence Cleaver and Mary V. Cheevir.

An annual gift for Krypton Missions was given by Lula Hall Poffenberger in memory of her father, Reverend Joseph I. Hall.

In loving memory of Dallas Edwards, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lavern Edwards of Lanark, Illinois gave a gift to the library at the Argentine Bible Institue and a gift to India missions.

Oscar L. Burt has been memorialized with a gift to Lost Creek, Kentucky from William Hornig, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

In loving memory of Reverend and Mrs. Edwin Boardman a living memorial to India and to the Argentine Bible Institute library.

Signal Light's Stories for February

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE
MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

A BOY'S LUNCH

"Mom," called the boy as he ran to the house. "Mom, Jesus is going down the road. Lots of people are following Him. They want to see Him make sick people well. Let's go, too. Please, may we?"

"I wish we could, Son," answered Mom. "But I must finish baking this bread before Dad gets home for lunch."

"Oh," said the boy and Mom knew he was disappointed.

"I tell you what," continued Mom. "Why don't you go? See the crowd is stopping on the hillside over there. You can listen to Jesus teach. You can watch Him heal. Then you can tell Dad and me all about it."

The boy's eyes sparkled. A smile crept across his face. "May I? May I really go?" he asked.

"Yes," answered Mom as she put five of the small freshly baked loaves of bread into a basket. "You will get hungry before you get back," she said as she put two dried fish into the basket also. "Now, run along. Listen and watch carefully. We will want to know all about it."

The boy ran quickly down the path, across the field to the hillside where Jesus was talking to the crowd. He slipped between people and around groups until he was standing very close to Jesus.

The boy listened as Jesus talked. He watched as Jesus put His hand on sick people and they were well. "He can do anything. Jesus can do anything!" thought the boy.

Then he heard Jesus say to the disciples, "The people are hungry. Let's give them food before they start home."

Philip said, "But Jesus, there are thousands of people here! Where can we get enough food for all of them?"

The boy was standing near Andrew. He tugged on Andrew's sleeve. Andrew leaned down to hear the boy.

"I have a lunch," said the child. "Jesus may use it to feed the people." And he handed his basket to Andrew.

Andrew smiled at the boy as he took the basket. He turned to Jesus. "This boy has given You his lunch, but see there are only five small loaves and two fish. What good are they for all these people?"

"Tell everyone to sit down," Jesus said as He took the basket.

"Thank You, God," He prayed, "Thank You for this food."

Then Jesus began to take food from the basket and give it to the disciples to pass to the people.

The boy could hardly believe his eyes. There was enough food for all those thousands of people and twelve basketsful left when the people were through eating. All of that from his small lunch basket!

His eyes sparkled as he ran down the hillside, across the field and up the path to home.

"Mom! Dad!" he shouted. "Jesus can do anything! "He really can do anything!"

—Based on John 6:1-13

Memory Scripture: Deuteronomy 31:6b

WANTED: A FRIEND

Jack Jones was lonesome. He missed his friends and relatives in the United States.

Oh, yes, he knew his family had come to Colombia to serve God. He was glad his parents were missionaries, but still he was lonesome.

The evangelico Christians were not welcome in many homes. Some people said they were wicked and did not worship God as they should.

"No friends," mumbled Jack as he kicked a stone on the sidewalk.

The stone skipped bump, bump, bump on the walk ahead of him. It landed near a boy who was leaning against a fence watching Jack.

The boy gave the stone another kick and watched it skip down the walk. Then he turned to Jack who by this time was near him.

"Hello," he said with a smile. "Why do you look so sad on this lovely day?"

"I'm lonesome," replied Jack. "I want a friend to talk with and to play with."

"My name is Jose Salvo. I live here," said the boy. "I'll be your friend. Let's go to the park to play."

The two boys went to the nearby playground and spent a happy hour together.

"I have to go home now," Jack told his new friend. "Will you play with me tomorrow?"

"Sure," answered Jose. "I'll walk home with you so I know where you live.

A short time later Jack said, "This is where I live."

Jose stared at the house. "But that's where those new Evangelicos live."

Jack nodded.

"You're bad! You're bad!" shouted Jose as he ran swiftly away from Jack.

Jack had to blink hard to keep back the tears. "It was nice having a friend for an hour," he thought, "but I would like to have a full-time friend!"

The next day as Jack slowly walked to the park he noticed some ants on the sidewalk. He stooped to watch them.

Suddenly a boy who was running down the street stumpled over him. It was Jose.

"Now look what you did!" he shouted.

"Was it my fault you fell?" asked Jack. "Wasn't it because you didn't look where you were going?"

"Well, yes, I guess so," said Jose. "But you're bad!"

"Did you think I was bad when we played together yesterday?"

"No," answered Jose. "But all Evangelicos are bad."

"If your mother says it's all right to be my friend will you?" asked Jack.

"Sure," replied Jose.

"Come. Let's go to your house," said Jack tugging at Jose's sleeve.

As they came to Jose's home he saw his mother standing by the fence talking with another woman.

"Come, Son," she called. "This is my new friend Mrs. Jones."

"And this," said Mrs. Jones, "is my son Jack."

"How nice!" laughed Mrs. Salvo. "Now our boys can be friends, too."

"Good!" shouted both boys as they ran off together to play.

March 1, 1974

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

a time when Christians everywhere gather together to pray

"Loved, We Will Love," a Bible-centered worship guide prepared by the National Association of Evangelicals, is available in booklet form for group participation in church and community services.

WORSHIP BOOKLET



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National Association of Evangelicals

Box 28, Wheaton IL 60187

MEET BRETHREN VILLAGE



Almost since the Brethren Church began in America, it has been concerned with the needs of its elders. In the 1700's the first home was built in Pennsylvania, Histories do not tell what happened to this original one, but one that **has** stood during the years is the one built here in Flora by the Brethren Church in 1923. It is a beautiful extremely well-built old home, that was abandoned in 1968, due to no longer being able to meet state standards, for a modern efficient nursing home. This old building has stood like a grand old lady, knowing she was important to the Brethren Church, rich in its history. Now, once more, she is coming into her own. She is again serving a useful, historical part for the church. Nine apartments are presently being completed within, and along with the cottage apartments, this has become Brethren Village, another addition to The Brethren's Home, giving a modern approach to solving the problems of making retirement years meaningful for its residents.

The Brethren's Home is pioneering in an area of human understanding which has long been neglected throughout the country. Americans are living longer useful lives, and thus, increasing the proportion of the aged in our population, and problems of care for them.

Brethren Village is being built to encourage people to remain independent as long as possible, yet have the assurance of aid nearby, if needed. As an important entity of The Brethren's Home, also with an inter-com in each apartment directly into the Nurse's station of the Home, the residents are assured of medical care and assistance at any time should it be needed. They can live here in perfect confidence, knowing that there will always be someone nearby to check on them and make sure they are all right.

There are nine apartments, eight with one-bedroom, and one with two bedrooms. Each apartment will include a kitchenette, bath, living room, and bedroom (s), and be provided with wall to wall carpeting and an individual heating cooling ventilating system.

The main feature of the apartments is their proximity to the Nursing home itself. They will be joined by four apartments in two of the

cottages, built in the 1950's, scheduled for renovation next spring, for an ultimate total of 13 apartments.

Residents will be guaranteed 20 days of free nursing care in the Nursing home yearly and a permanent bed in the Nursing home should they be unable to care for themselves at some future date.

Each resident will be relieved of the traditional home-owners responsibilities of upkeep and grounds maintenance, as these will be provided by Brethren Village, individual housekeeping is expected, although housekeeping will be provided at an additional cost if requested.

All utilities, except telephone, are included in the monthly comprehensive fee, and coin operated washers and dryers will be located off the Central lounge, where craft classes and programs will be offered.

To insure each resident at least one balanced meal daily, one such meal will be provided by the Nursing home as part of the basic services, although it is not mandatory.

Each apartment will be sold on a Life-use Contract, with the cost amortized over a 10 year period at ten percent. If the resident should occupy the apartment for more than ten years, there would be no additional cost, other than the Monthly Comprehensive fee.

Brethren Village has been created as complete concept of care for the elderly. There is no reason a capable elderly person should be forced into the traditional Nursing home when they are still able to care for themselves simply because there is no other way they can conveniently guarantee themselves Medical attention, or because they need a minimum care and no one to provide this. Brethren Village provides a way for dignity and independence.

Come see us—meet Brethren Village personally. It's a place that should make all Brethren proud of their ownership.

Inquiries are invited—Visitors are welcome.

Executive Consultant
Rosemary Eddy

CHRISTMAS COMES TO BRETHREN CARE

Mid snow flakes and crackling 20-degree temperature, on December 15, Christmas was celebrated with appropriate music, decorations, fun and games at Brethren Care. On this jubilant evening the main lobby, decorated with traditional greens and tree, overflowed with gaily-dressed residents and their guests—each resident was allowed to invite two, and many of them had availed themselves of this opportunity. Most of the staff was present also.

After a period of time spent greeting one another and meeting new friends, the master of ceremonies, Dick Boyd, presented various performers. First were some numbers commemorating the birth of Christ; then a musical ensemble, under the direction of Moreland House, provided entertainment of a lighter type, more the toe-tapping variety.

The **piece de resistance** for the evening burst upon the scene when Santa Claus, in full red and white regalia, with padding somewhat askew, romped in carrying his pack.

He first provided remembrances for the "good little children," visitors of the residents; then he distributed to members of the staff and some residents humorous small items of special significance: a gaily-wrapped package containing a rubber washer, to the laundress who needs a new clothes washer; a long-handled sprinkling can to Aunt Alta, who loves to water all the plants in sight; a bubble pipe for Kenny, who loves to smoke his real pipe, and so on.

These selections were appropriately inscribed with verses, composed by recreational director, Betty Boyd. Many laughs and much hand-clapping indicated enjoyment on all sides.

The identity of the exuberant Santa, who tried without success to have someone kiss him, was not revealed; but his voice and brand of humor sounded strangely like Charlie Munson's.

Finally, refreshments on a bountifully supplied table provided goodies for the most discriminating tastes. Everyone present seemed to enjoy the festivities; in fact, as this writer remarked to a friend that favorable comments were heard all about, a resident nearby volunteered this: "Nothing too nice can be said about this place!"

Much credit, of course, goes to Administrator Lenny Seaman and his dedicated staff. This was a time of real enjoyment and recognition of God's providential care.—il

THE BRETHREN'S HOME OF INDIANA, INC.

A Continuing Tradition of Caring—

Since its beginning, The Brethren's Home has been constantly striving to provide care for the aged and infirm members of The Brethren Church as well as the residents of the Flora area. As each year has passed since May of 1923, The Benevolent Board has been continually improving not only the physical facilities but maintaining the quality of care available to each resident of the Home.

The year 1968 marked a giant step in progress when a new 46 bed residential and nursing care wing was opened and the original building was abandoned. On our fiftieth anniversary in 1973, great strides for the continued expansion of the facilities at The Brethren's Home are taking place. First, the original building is being renovated and remodeled into 9 apartment units. Several of these units were ready for occupancy in January and the remaining units should be finished within the next two months. The residential living facilities have been separated from the Nursing Home for bookkeeping purposes and the Apartment Complex has been renamed Brethren's Village. Also in our fiftieth year, a new 40 bed addition to the nursing home is under construction and should be ready for occupancy in June of 1974.

During the past year, both the staff and residents have experienced many memorable events. On April 21st an Easter egg hunt for the grandchildren of the residents and children of the staff members was held. The residents had worked for days to decorate over 15 dozen Easter eggs, but the weather almost spoiled the occasion. However, the rain stopped in time for almost twenty youngsters to enjoy hunting for eggs and playing several games.

The most memorable event of this past year was the commemoration of 50 years of service of The Brethren's Home. Following the program, ground was broken for the new 40-bed addition that is presently under construction. Residents had their crafts and handiwork displayed for a bazaar that was held all afternoon following the activities of the day.



Groundbreaking for New Wing
L. to R.—Rev. Ed West, Dorman Ronk, Gene Geaslen, Rev. W. E. Thomas, Charles Riddle, Mrs. Rosemary Eddy



New Nursing Wing Under Construction . . . and snow!



50th Anniversary Commemoration
L. to R.—Mrs. Rosemary Eddy (standing), Rev. Clarence Kindley, Dorman Ronk, Rev. Ed West



View From Apartment Being Constructed at Brethren's Village

In June the Home purchased a mobile home to be used for office space for the construction people during the building of the wing. The mobile home was brought in and set up, but within two weeks a small tornado altered the site and position somewhat. The contractor, Albert Schrock, was in the mobile when it was overturned, but escaped with only a few bruises. We were very fortunate that neither the contractor nor the mobile home sustained any major injury or damage since the mobile wasn't insured at the time.



Construction Mobile Home Toppled by Small Tornado—Albert Schrock peers out of mobile home

This year, Halloween took on a new meaning for the residents. All the staff members were encouraged to masquerade themselves for the day and many employees went to great lengths to make the day a success.



Halloween with Ruth Harshbarger as "Aunt Jemima"



Margaret Wilson (left) and Joyce Yoder (right) Staff Members Dressed for Halloween

Christmas activities kept everyone quite busy this year. The annual Staff Christmas Party was held on December 11th and a total of 51 staff members and guests were in attendance for the carry-in supper. Each employee was presented with an individual gift plus a Bonus check while ten persons received Service Award Pins for years of service totaling over 37 years. The residents Christmas party was held on Christmas eve. Santa Claus made his appearance for the evening and passed out bundles of gifts to each resident. After everyone had opened gifts, all joined in the singing of Carols. The evening was closed with the reading of the Christmas story from St. Luke and prayer. We would like to issue a special "Thanks" to all the churches and individuals that sent gifts to the Home for the residents. We would pray that each of you received as much blessing from giving as the residents did by receiving these gifts.



Staff Christmas Party
Margaret Wilson is finally going to wear the pants on her shift!



Santa Visits Bed Patients with Gifts

Each month a Birthday Party is held to honor those with birthdays falling in that month. Cake and punch is served to all of the residents and gifts that are sent in by a number of Brethren churches are distributed to those honored residents. A birthday list is included for those churches and individuals who send birthday cards to the people here. In the past, these cards have been very much appreciated by all of the individuals receiving them.



Punch for the November Birthday Party served by Mrs. Gene Geaslen

BIRTHDAY LIST

JANUARY	7	Amanda Roth
	24	Grace Porte
FEBRUARY	5	Daniel Cripe
	10	Florence Sholly
	11	Ruth Lowery
	20	Ellen Hodges
	21	Flossie Burton
	25	Laura Appleton
	26	Roxie Bowman
MARCH	4	Mary Maus
	11	Vera Fooshee
	13	Cathryn Bankert
	20	Pearl Peterson
	25	Maude Ayres
	26	Ursel Bobo
APRIL	12	Laura Landes
	21	Elizabeth Ridenour
	28	Donald Dickson
MAY	5	Everett Snell
	18	Audrey Randall
	23	Rosa Roth
	29	Minnie Hylton
JUNE	3	Gladys Whetstone
	11	Laura Wise
	16	Gladys Snell
	17	Pearl Showalter
	23	Isabel Rammel
JULY	17	Pearl Rummel
AUGUST	7	Elsie Sink
	19	Mary Alice Coomey
	23	Leona Townsend
	29	Sulie Ward
SEPTEMBER	4	Otto Allen
	18	Grace Paxson
	21	Nora Kennedy
OCTOBER	21	Lena Hannell
	24	Blanche Bowman
NOVEMBER	18	Lellie Reppert
	19	Ida Rummel
	22	Luema Flora
	23	Deane Craig (Mrs.)
	25	Maude Clingenpeel
DECEMBER	17	Gladys Hanley
	27	Ona Humbarger

Truly the year of 1973 held many blessings for The Brethren's Home in Flora. We can only look forward to this New Year with great expectations. Personally, as Administrator of the Home, this year has presented us with many challenges as well as frustrations but the former always seems to overshadow the latter. Expansion plans are taking physical form after months of waiting; financially we continue to operate at a loss but with proposed rate increased and the income from the new wing, we are optimistic here. My family and I are now settled in our new home just west of the Home grounds, not to mention the arrival of our new income tax deduction, Chad Alan, born December 8. Oh yes, we have so many blessings to be thankful for that we hardly have time to enumerate on our problems. The task seems to be made easier in light of what our Lord said as recorded in Matthew 25:40—"In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Health care of our senior citizens is presenting new challenges each year and we have an obligation to meet the needs for not only our Brethren, but all those people requiring care. With God's guidance and the support of the Brethren, we will meet the increasing health care needs of the aging sector of our society.

You can help meet these needs by your offerings, gifts, bequests or investments with the Benevolent Board. If you have funds you would like to invest in Christian work, you may obtain 0-6% interest on these monies when invested with The Benevolent Board. Your investments aid us in developing facilities and services for the elderly. For further information on this program consult the last issue of The Evangelist or write to:

THE BENEVOLENT BOARD
625 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805
Gene Geaslen, Administrator
The Brethren's Home of Indiana, Inc.

SISTERHOOD

This symbol was designed by Mrs. Norma Waters, our past treasurer. When you see it, think of the meaning each of the letters and word represents.





by Sherry Barnhart

Once upon a time there were 3 Christian girls who were all close to the same age. They went to school together and played together all the time. Each girl liked many of the same things as the others did. They each liked the same color (blue), the same television show (The Walton's), the same boy (Bill), the same food (pizza), and the same sport (basketball). These girls even seemed to look alike sometimes. They each one really liked each other and they had so much fun together.

Is this what we mean when we say "Sisterhood?" Yes and No! Yes, it is great to have really close Christian friends who like the same things and understand all about you. Yes, we do love to have fun with special people in our lives. Yet, "Sisterhood" means so much more than that.

Our official name is the "Sisterhood of Mary and Martha" (S.M.M.). This name is taken from Luke 10:38-42. Let's look at that passage in the New American Standard Version.

> "Now as they were traveling, He entered a certain village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. And she had a sister called Mary, who moreover was listening to the Lord's word, seated at His feet. But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him, and said, 'Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered and said to her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; but only a few things are necessary, really only one: for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.' "

I hope after reading that Scripture that each one of you could at least guess why we are the "Sisterhood of Mary and Martha."

The "Sisterhood" part of our name does mean loving, sharing and being "sisters" in Christ. It means doing things together and having fun as well as working together. It also means that we must accept others and allow them to be our "sisters" too.

Mary and Martha are two sisters who were all the beautiful things that we want to be. That is one reason our organization is named as it is. But there is another reason also. Mary's name to us stands for **worship.** Mary truly did love, honor and worship Jesus, our Savior. Martha's name means the element of **work.** She also loved and honored our Lord but she showed this love in her own way—by working and serving our Lord.

Both Mary and Martha symbolize beautiful meanings for our societies to strive to uphold. The "Sisterhood of Mary and Martha" has a great heritage. Let's each worship and work for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sherry

NAE HOME MISSION EXECUTIVES REPORT RAPID GROWTH OF SPANISH-SPEAKING CHURCHES

This article is being shared since The Brethren Church was represented at this meeting by John D. Rowsey, Secretary to Evangelism and Home Missions Association. He has had this position the last two years. The Brethren Church is starting its Spanish work in the United States at Tucson with the Curtises. We pray for this kind of success with our own mission work.

CHICAGO, Ill.—There has been a dramatic growth of evangelical churches within the Spanish-speaking population of the U.S., according to reports of home missions leaders here this month. Some 26 denominational home missions executives met at a special workshop session of the Evangelism and Home Missions Association (EHMA), an affiliate of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE).

Dr. Keith Bailey, newly elected home missions secretary of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, said, "We can hardly keep up with what's happening. In some of these situations all the rules are broken, but churches are being started and all of them seem to be growing."

"We have seen over 41 Spanish-speaking churches begun in the last three years," said Dr. Wade Horton, first assistant general overseer of the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee. "Give them a little direction and help, and they're on their way."

These remarks were typical in their description of current Spanish-speaking work represented at the session, according to Rev. Gordon H. Anderson, EHMA president and executive secretary of home missions of the Baptist General Conference, Evanston, Ill. He indicated that the group saw this as an opportune time to reach Spanish-speaking people within the nation.

Anderson described the two-day EHMA meeting as "rethinking of our denominational strategy for cooperative action to accelerate missions in North America." He further asserted that "the big priority for most of our denominations is church extension, the starting of new churches."

A feature of the Chicago consultation was a preview showing of the film, "How To Grow a Church," produced by Dr. Win Arn of Arcadia, California.

Dr. Billy A. Melvin, NAE executive director, commended EHMA for their sharpened focus on the North American mission of evangelical churches and their advance planning for sessions at the 32nd annual NAE convention, scheduled for Boston, April 23-25, 1974.

"TURNED AWAY"

It was late at night when I slipped away,
Off to eternity, no time to pray.
I knocked at the gates of God's great abode,
Asking admittance, not knowing the code.
The angel who guarded those pearly white gates
Looked at me strangely when I asked the rates.
"Ah, friend,"—said he, "you have made a mistake;
The price has been paid. It was yours to take."
"The price!" I insisted. "What will it be?"
"Christ paid it," he said, "When He died for thee!"
I asked, I demanded to see the great King
Of whom down on earth I had heard choirs sing—
When finally He came, the One I had sought,
He looked at me sadly, "I know thee not!"
Stunned, I turned away from the place
From which I left in shame and disgrace.
Trembling with fear, I awoke from the dream,
Still in my memory my anguished scream;
When God turned His back on me at the throne.
Leaving me helpless, facing hell alone.
I fell to my knees, not too proud to pray,
Wondering, what if I had died yesterday?

from The Gratis Lamplighter
by Marjorie Aldom

HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE

This article is based upon an address presented at Rutger's University as guest speaker for the Alumni Association June 2, 1973.

William Porte is the son of Elder John W. Porte and Clara Fowler Porte. He graduated from Rutger's University with high honors and was inducted into the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. After a year of graduate study he taught Science in the Somerville New Jersey High School.

He then received an appointment to serve as Jr. Pathologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Serving 40 years in this department he retired holding the position of Sr. Pathologist.

Since retiring from the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Porte has been active teaching science in the high schools of Montgomery County and as a Fellow and Life member of the American Association for the advancement of Science. He also holds membership in the American Pathological Society.



by William S. Porte

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

The Israelites have done more to introduce us finite beings to the Creator of the Universe than any other people. They were a pastoral nation situated in an ideal part of the world, and their chief occupation as shepherds was conducive to much contemplation. The shepherds had plenty of time to study the beauty and wonders of nature about them.

The Psalmist David, who was a shepherd, exclaimed in his 19th Psalm, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

The prophet Isaiah, who lived seven centuries before Christ, was able to predict and evaluate many centuries in advance regarding future events. How was he able to predict future events? Was he a super man? No, he was just an ordinary man who had waited upon the Lord, his Creator.

Another scripture says, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy path." The unchanging Creator ordained all laws and He has enabled man through the ages to learn to use these physical laws for our good.

I remember ex-President Austin Scott of Rutgers University asking the head of the Electrical Department: "What is electricity?" The head of the department finally said he didn't know. Yet, we all use electricity and recognize it as a form of energy. We recognize that the Creator uses electrical energy and magnetism to keep the stars and planets in their orbits.

The prophets of the Old Testament were just ordinary, intelligent men who meditated much on the things of the Spirit and prayed without ceasing to Jehovah, their God. Even the great pioneer leader of Israel, Moses, had to go apart by himself to communicate with the Creator of the Universe.

When Nebuchadnezzer beseiged Jerusalem, he requested his officers to select young men of noble birth and take them to Babylon. He gave orders for the young men to be given the same meat and drink as the King of Babylon himself. The prophet Daniel was among those captured and taken to the capital. However, Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the King's meat and wine.

When the King was troubled with dreams he could not interpret, he called for Daniel to interpret for him. Daniel told him that eventually he would lose his Empire and that he would go out and be wet with the dew of heaven and would eat grass like an ox. This came to pass as Daniel had predicted. Eventually, Nebuchadnezzer, after his diet of grass, regained his right mind and began worshipping Daniel's Creator, God.

The prophets of this day are dedicated men and women who have a daily prayer life which keeps them in touch with God. Jean Dixon goes to her church daily to be alone in communication with her Creator. She predicted in 1968 that President Nixon would be involved in a scandal during his administration, but that he would weather the storm and come out stronger than ever. Dr. Billy Graham, who has ministered to millions with outstanding success, gives all the credit to God. Kathryn Kuhlman and Oral Roberts, who have had outstanding success in healing the physical needs of the ill and crippled, give all credit to the God of the Universe. Dr. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade, gives all credit to the working of the Holy Spirit of God.

The greatest manifestation of the Holy Spirit was at Pentecost. I think of it as celestial electricity. The Bible speaks of "Tongues of Fire" above every individual head present. All of us are capable of receiving this same power if we really, earnestly seek it in faith believing that we will receive it.

His Holiness, Pope John the 23rd, is a good example of a prophet of God who radiated the love of God to all mankind. He no doubt inspired one of his priests to write the book, "Why I Love Martin Luther," that shows substantial unity among Christian people.

Most of us, I fear, do not realize our power to communicate with the Creator. No one can do this for us. Each must learn to do this for himself. We must each diligently seek after God by inviting His messenger, the Holy Spirit to take possession of our life.

My maternal grandmother, Catherine Hartshorn Fowler, sang a lullaby to me when a small child. The words were: "All nature shows in various ways the great Creator's praise. The birds all sing while on the wing, in soft and pleasing ways. The trees look gay and seem to say there is a God above. The bleating flock with happy look say we are ruled by love. And if the herds and trees and birds all join to sing God's praise, it must not be that such as we, refuse to do the same."

Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" seems appropriate for this occasion. "Tell me not in mournful numbers, life is but an empty dream; for the soul is dead that slumbers and things are not what they seem. Life is real, life is earnest and the grave is not its goal. Dust thou art to dust returneth was not spoken of the soul. Not enjoyment and not sorrow are our destined end or way; but to act that each tomorrow find us further than today. In the world's broad field of battle, in the bivouac of life, be not like dumb driven cattle, be a hero in the strife. Trust no future how'ere pleasant, let the dead past bury the dead. Act, act in the living present, heart within and God o'er head.

Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime and departing, leave behind us foot prints on the sands of time, foot prints that perhaps another sailing o'er life's solemn main, a forlorn and ship-wrecked brother, seeing may take heart again. Then let us be up and doing with a heart for any fate still striving, still pursuing, learn to labor and to wait.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up on wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

SENATE PASSES APRIL 30 PRAYER DAY

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A resolution calling for observance of a "national day of humiliation, fasting and prayer" on April 30 has been adopted by the U.S. Senate.

Introduced by Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.), the resolution was adopted by voice vote and with no debate or opposition.

The lawmakers indicated that because of the nation's failings, it "behooves us to humble ourselves before Almighty God, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

The Hatfield proposal was modeled after a proclamation issued by Abraham Lincoln fixing April 30, 1863—when the Union cause in the Civil War had reached a low point—as a day for reflection.

"We witness a country torn apart with division and lacking the spiritual foundation which would restore its vision and purpose." Hatfield said in a Senate speech. "We, as a people, through our own acquiescence to corruption and waste, have helped to create a moral abyss that produces a disdain for honesty and humility in high levels of national leadership."

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR FEBRUARY

THE SNARE OF PREPARATION

There is a great deal of day-dreaming in the makeup of most of us, some of it not good. There is some day-dreaming from which we ought to be awakened. I am thinking now of the type which we many brand as a "green pasture" illusion—that the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. The psychologist William Marston one time asked 2,999 people, "What are you living for?" He was startled to find in the tone of their answers that there was an unbelievable number who were simply enduring the present while they waited for a better future. Acts and entertainers doing bit parts were waiting for the "big chance." People in business were thinking of their present job as an unnecessary and undeserved interlude, a mere marking of time until fate opened a door to something better.

One middle-aged mother said, "I only hope that my nerves can stand the ordeal until my husband retires and the children get homes of their own. I'm living for that blessed day when I can get a little rest."

Tolstoy perhaps had a better phrase for this pattern of life and thought. He called it the "snare of preparation," the fallacy of habitually thinking of today as a mere preparation for tomorrow, thinking of the present situation as a sort of drab waiting room in a bus station where we must sit and wait until the bus comes and takes us to a better place. Even the bus trip is a marking of time, something we have to endure until we arrive. When we do arrive there is always a greener pasture further on. Life for many becomes a series of waiting rooms.

I like the imaginative thought of the writer who was walking very rapidly down a country road one day, his mind full of anxious thoughts, when he seemed to hear a slow, drawling voice come up from the road itself, asking "Why don't you saunter along? Maybe you think there is nothing worthwhile on the road but the end of it? Believe me, there is something more. If you do not find love, joy, and goodness on the road, they will not be waiting for you at the end."

We stand looking out into life, into our family situations, our work, the community of which we are a part. There are whole companies of thoughts that can make our faces drawn, our spirits heavy. But perhaps we ought to catch that something of which Jacob suddenly became aware a long time ago when he said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it."

"Surely the Lord is in **this** Place. . . ." How often we treat the present as though the Lord and His goodness lay only in the future and elsewhere. Yet, scores of people over the years have indicated that it has been in the hard hours of life that they have begun to learn how to live.

For the child of God the end of the road will mean eternal life. But there is a sense in which that life eternal begins at the moment of faith. Because this is true, life is worth living **now** for "surely the Lord is in **this** place."

A LETTER TO GOD

While the scent of pine is still lingering from the Christmas holiday season there is still time to take out a moment or two and reflect a bit about the events of recent days.

With this in mind, we would like to share with our readers a letter that was sent to our desk from the College Corner Brethren Church in Wabash, Indiana. This letter was written by Becky Null, who with her husband Don are with many others, quite active in the College Corner church.

Well God, here it is almost Christmas again.

I think I've remembered everyone on our Christmas list. You know, it gets more difficult each year! I can think of so many things I'd like to give everyone, but we can't afford them; so we'll just do with what we have. I'm reminded of Philippians 4:11 when Paul was writing to the Christians at Philippi when he said: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." . . . I know they'll understand.

It seems ironic God. It's your Son's birthday and He is often the last one remembered. Forgive us. I guess this Christmas is the first Christmas I've really given more thought to your Son. Thanks for helping me over that hump! But you know better than I how much farther WE have to go. I know you'll be there when I goof something up—as I'm accustomed to doing more times than I care to admit. Thanks to Your unselfish Son, I've come to hang onto that promise with my life.

With the new year near at hand and so many things wrong in this ol' world, the future sure doesn't look very bright. But then I've never been one to get too worried about things. Only this year I've not worried for a different reason. I knew You'd be there to take care of every genuine need we had —if only we had faith, (You know—the kind of faith we have when we flick the light switch and know there is going to be light, or even the faith we have when we get into that rattle-trap of an automobile with the expectation that we'll get where we're going safely. That kind of thinking seems to be so easy to accept—but why is it that accepting The Lord Jesus Christ and the Promise of Eternal Life is so hard?

It has taken me so long to think of Christmas and Your Son's birthday in the same thought. For me they've often been separate events. Your Son's birthday was December 25th! Christmas was a day of overwork, broken toys, noisy kids, heaps of torn wrappings, too much to eat, nervous tension, recovering from a strained budget, returning gifts and all other self-centered descriptions. Boy! did it take a long time. How sorry I am and how sad you must have been. Forgive me.

God, I'm glad you took the time to look over my shoulder while I was writing this letter. This Season must be an extra busy one for You listening to all those prayers for a peaceful and prosperous world. But help us understand that it WILL be when You want it to be. If we can understand this then we can wait—and be more content waiting.

May Your Son's birthday be the most joyful ever accepting more Souls to Your throne in Your behalf. And may Your blessings be abundant and Your Peace, Love, Joy and Hope Divine touch the hearts of men the world over here at Christmastime.

In Awe and
Love for Your Son
Becky



AUDIO-VISUAL DEPT.

NEW ITEMS

Several new items have been added to the Resource Library of the AUDIO-VISUAL DEPT. Included with the titles are descriptions of the items.

Orders should be placed no less than three weeks prior to planned date of use. Please list planned date of use for each individual item; also give alternate dates or titles whenever possible.

You need not send money with your order; we will be happy to send an invoice. If someone other than the renter is to be billed, please include name and address.

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EVANGELISM

CS-E116 SKILLS FOR COMMUNICATING GOOD NEWS—C-60 cassette, leader's packet, 12 seminar guides.

Produced by Forum House, this study would be used most effectively "with a task force within the local church, which has already committed itself to some kind of outreach in visitation." Includes three sessions: **Skill in Listening, Skill in Sharing, Skill in Presenting.** May be incorporated into an existing evangelism training program or used individually. (h, a) (9/73) (NOTE: RENTAL IS $2.50, including costs of seminar materials for 12. For more than 12, indicate number of participants; additional material will be included at **$.25** per person.)

SEASONAL: Easter

FS-H332 WHY WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK—56 frames, color draws, rec & man; 16 min.

Designed to help juniors participate more meaningfully in Holy Week observances (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter), this strip may be adapted for use with older youth and adults. (j, jh, h, a) (4/73) (NOTE: RENTAL IS $1.00.)

CHRISTIAN LIVING AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Adults and Youth

One Way Library REARING CHILDREN Series (4)

Can there be a generation gap in a solidly established Christian home? Are the "Impossible Years" untouchable as well? In this personal study, Dr. Howard Hendricks focuses on the relationship between marital harmony and sibling respect and discipline. A beautiful and informative Biblical illustration of how to build toward family unity. (a) (12/73) (RENTAL IS $1.00 each or $3.00 for entire series.)

CS-L325 I. THE HOME—62 min.

CS-L326 II. REARING CHILDREN—51 min.

CS-L327 III. DISCIPLINE—65 min.

CS-L328 IV. REARING A MARRIAGE PARTNER—57 min.

Guidance Associate UNDERSTANDING YOUR PARENTS Series (4)

In-depth interview with young people and parents develop insight into the conditions affecting parent/teen relationships. Program shows misconceptions and double standards on the part of both that could become barriers to understanding and points our productive kinship—**how** it works, **when** it works. Use with teens and/or parents to help them begin productive dialogue centered on building satisfying relationships in the home. (h, a) (12/73) (RENTAL IS $1.00 each or $2.00 for entire series.)

FS-L329 I. WHAT SEPARATES US?—67 frames, color photos, rec & man; 10 min.

FS-L330 II. WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER?—54 frames, color photos, rec & man; 10 min.

G/A YOUR PERSONALITY: THE YOU OTHERS KNOW Series (2)

This program for youth describes personality as distinct from character and discusses positive and negative personality traits. It stresses the importance of working for self discovery while remaining open to diversity in others. Youth sponsors, teachers, and parents can learn of the personality/identity struggle facing youth. (h, a) (12/73) (RENTAL IS $1.00 or $2.00 for entire series.)

FS-L331 I. WHAT IT IS—103 frames, color photos, rec & man; 11 min.

FS-L332 II. WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT—108 frames, color photos, rec & man; 13 min.

CS-L333 CONVERSION—BEGINNING THE ADVENTURE WITH GOD—C-60 cassette, leader's guide, 8 response guides, 2-3 hours.

What were your needs at the time of conversion? Were they primarily at the level of physical safety, belonging, esteem, self realization, the desire to know or the aesthetic? Applying Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of need theory, Keith Miller helps participants understand why they picture God as they do. Very helpful for understanding religious experience, and excellent for group involvement. (a) (12/73) (NOTE: RENTAL IS $3.00, including costs of seminar materials for 8. For more than 8, indicate number of participants; additional material will be included at $.25 per person.)

CS-L334 OVERCOMING BARRIERS IN OUR ADVENTURES WITH OTHERS—C-60 cassette, leader's guides, 2-3 hours

Led by Bruce Larson, this group involvement program helps participants learn how to avoid the mistakes, hardships, and heartaches caused by dishonesty with yourself, God, and others. It enables individuals to identify what's keeping them from fully satisfying relationships by challenging them to honesty and openness. (a) (12/73) (NOTE: RENTAL IS $3.00, including costs of seminar materials for 8. For more than 8, indicate number of participants; additional material will be included at $.25 per person.)

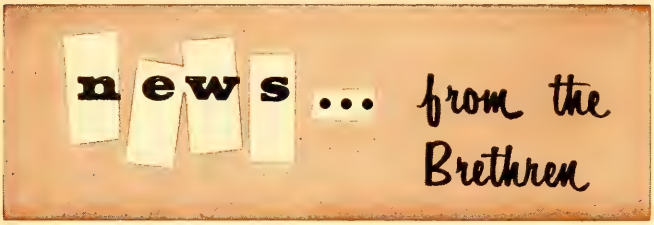
CS-L335 THE CHURCH IN SMALL GROUPS—C-90 cassette, leader's guidebook, 8 seminar guides.

Produced by Forum House and subtitled "An Experience in Christian Group Process," can enable a group of committed laymen "to become a loving fellowship that turns outward in involvement in mission to others." Nine sessions include: **Presenting History, Presenting Hope, Presenting Feelings, Giving to Others, Receiving from Others, Gifts for Ministry, Their World for Ministry, Strategies for Ministry, Support of Ministry** (synopsis for preview of studies available free upon request). (a) (9/73) (NOTE: RENTAL IS $3.50, including costs of seminar materials for 8. For more than 8, indicate number of participants; additional materials will be included at $.25 per person.)

SUPPLEMENT 1

It's finally off the press! Supplement 1 of the A-V GUIDE was mailed at the end of December and should now be in your hands. If you have a GUIDE but did not receive a supplement, send your name, address, church, and no. of copies needed to the A-V DEPT. Your supplement will be mailed at once.

DID YOU PLACE SUPPLEMENT 1 IN YOUR A-V GUIDE? If not, do so at once in order to keep your catalog current!



Memorials

ROHRER

Balsar J. Rohrer (B.J.) 77, of Shipshewana, Indiana went to be with his Lord on December 21, 1973. He is survived by one son Berlin of Goshen. B.J. was very active in Indiana District of Laymen. He was a member of First Brethren Church of Goshen, Indiana before transferring his membership to Elkhart First Brethren Church. Services were held at First Brethren Church, Elkhart with interment at Violet Cemetery, Goshen with Pastor Dale RuLon officiating.

* * *

BALL

Truman Ball, 88 Elkhart, Indiana went to be with his Lord on December 29, 1973. He is survived by his wife Lydia and two sons. He was a member of the First Brethren Church of Elkhart. Services were held at White Funeral Home with interment at Rice Cemetery. Rev. Clarence Sinks of City Church of the Brethren officiated in the absence of Pastor Dale Rulon.

* * *

JARIS

Mrs. Irene Jaris (Smith) passed away at Ball Hospital, Muncie, Indiana on December 9th. She was a member of the First Brethren Church in Muncie. She is survived by her husband Matthew, and three brothers. Funeral service was held at Meeks Mortuary at 10:00 A.M. December 12th with Rev. St. Clair Benshoff officiating. Interment was in Beech Grove Cemetery, Muncie.

* * *

WORST

Samuel (Glenn) Worst, 86, formerly of Sloan Avenue, died Sunday evening at Wooster Community Hospital. He was a member of Garber Brethren Church.

Survivors include three daughters, Mrs. Leroy Imhoff of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mrs. Elvro Bally of Ashland, and Mrs. Tim Hamilton of Wooster; one sister Mrs. John Frank of Wooster; 12 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral service held at McIntire Funeral Home in Wooster with Dr. L. E. Lindower and Rev. Keith Snyder officiating. Burial in Fairhaven Cemetery.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Plaugher observed their 58th Wedding Anniversary on December 19th.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Swihart observed their 64th Wedding Anniversary on December 18th.
Sarasota, Florida

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schrock celebrated their 58th Wedding Anniversary on New Year's Day.
Goshen, Indiana

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Hagerstown, Maryland—
7 by baptism

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania—
3 by baptism



MARCHES ON!

Fifty Years Ago: The Fellowship Class of the First Brethren Church in Waterloo, Iowa pledged themselves to raise the first one hundred dollars toward a new Ford truck for Miss Estella Myers as she returns to Africa in the fall.

Twenty-five Years Ago: Approximately Six Hundred Students were registered at Ashland College.

Ten Years Ago: M. Virgil Ingraham makes first official visit to Nigeria as General Secretary of the Missionary Board of The Brethren Church.

CHURCH NEWS

HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

First Brethren Church

Sunday, the sixteenth of December, was a day long to be remembered for the Hagerstown, Maryland First Brethren Congregation.

The day-long events celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the first Brethren Church service held in America on Christmas day in the year 1723. The honored guest and special speaker of the day was Dr. Jerry Flora of the Ashland College Seminary.

The day began with the assembling in the sanctuary of the adult class members of the church school. The Berean class taught by Mrs. Freeda Johns, had the opening exercises which included special music by Mrs. Patsy Johns and daughter Linda. Following the opening, Dr. Flora spoke on "What gives us the right to be Brethren?" A brief history of the beginning of the Brethren denomination and continuing on to the present was given and Dr. Flora concluded by saying that "Brethren must learn how to live together as brother and sister without destroying the body of Christ.

The morning worship service included the singing of two old hymns that had been used during the days of our early Brethren, "Count Well The Cost"; and the Brethren's departing song sung before their departure from Germany for America in 1719, "Let Us Journey On."

Dr. Flora then delivered an inspiring message entitled "Why a church called Brethren?", and left us with this challenging question—"Is there a need for the Brethren Church to exist?"

Immediately following the morning service, the assemblage gathered round the baptistry in the Fellowship Hall for the baptism of seven persons who had previously expressed their desire to give their lives to Christ and enter into the membership of the church.

At the conclusion of the baptismal service, a delicious meal was served to all present. Arrangements for this meal and the serving was under the supervision of the Y.O.U. Class taught by Mrs. Lurine Mills.



Left to right: Mrs. Willis Kinch, Mrs. John Mills, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mellott, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith, Mrs. Ruth Stoddard, Mrs. Kenneth Stottlemyer.

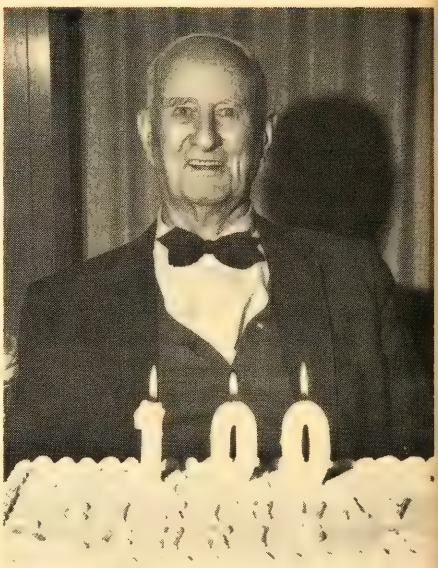
Several members of the congregation entered into the spirit of the occasion by dressing in clothes reminiscent of earlier days.

At the conclusion of our bountiful meal, we once again assembled in the sanctuary. The service of "Laying on of hands," and reception into church membership, was held for the seven persons baptized after the morning service by our Pastor, Rev. John Mills,

The service of Holy Communion was then conducted by Dr. Flora and brought to an end a most rewarding day of Christian fellowship for everyone. Many were heard to say that the time had passed so swiftly and they pray Dr. Flora will come back again soon.

100 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING

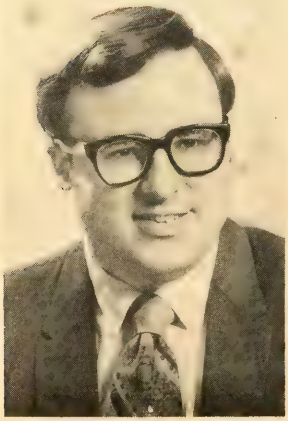
Oakville, Indiana



The Annual Thanksgiving Eve Service at the First Brethren Church of Oakville had a birthday flavor to it this year. Seated in the front row was Mr. Christopher Columbus Cory who was 100 years old on November 20, 1973. His health, generally good, has kept him close to his home for the past several years. Through the efforts of many of the members, Chris and his wife, Ruth, were able to join us that night. It was the first time Chris had seen the building since its remodeling two years ago.

Chris remains as active as he can. He tends to many small chores around his home and still oversees the management and production of his farmland. Much to his wife's dismay, he sometimes takes off in the car to tend to a chore that needs doing. It is hard for a man who was active in the life of his local community and church to slow down. It is hard for his church to accept the fact that a fine member is with us only in spirit when we gather for worship. We were glad to have a part in the celebration of C. C. Cory's 100th birthday. May he have gained at least half as much from us as his fine spirit and positive outlook gave us when together we all gave Thanks to the Lord.

DENVER, INDIANA



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Denver, Indiana Brethren Church is Praising the Lord for revival!

Prior to the week of services (Nov. 25 - Dec. 2), much prayer and fasting were offered that the Lord would bless us with community outreach as well as great revival. As is His will, He blessed us tremendously.

Each evening we worshipped with a beautiful evangelistic song service led by Mr. Dick Lewis, of the Tiosa Brethren Church. The musical talent of Denver blessed us nightly in specials, and one evening the "Good News Trio" from the Burlington Brethren Church sang for us. Many pastors of the Indiana District were able to attend the services and the Lord continued each evening to build the attendance. Our attendance averaged 69 each night and we met our goal of 100 in attendance the last evening of meetings.

And thank God for the ten who made first time decisions in their homes and at the altar, as well as the twenty-two who rededicated their lives. Let us remember these new converts in prayer throughout the Brotherhood.

Truly we Praise the Lord!

In FAITH and ACTION,
Evangelist Bill Ross
FAITH-ACTION CRUSADE
P.O. Box 4141
Sarasota, Fla. 33578

P.S. Do not hesitate to write because of financial difficulties. In Faith, Take Action

POETRY CORNER

JUST SUPPOSE

Just suppose the Lord should begin
Tomorrow to make people as sick
As they say they are on the Lord's day!
Would they begin to get well quick?
Just suppose the Lord would take away
The child whom the parents use
As an excuse for staying away from church!
Would they then throw away this excuse?
Just suppose the Lord would make some people
As poor as they say they are
When asked to help finance His work!
Would they come from near and far?
Just suppose the Lord would have everyone
Stoned for covetousness today
As He did with Achan long ago!
Would they all begin to mend their way?
Just suppose the Lord would strike dead
All who lie about giving their tithe
As He did with Ananias and Sapphira!
Would they consider changing their lives?
Just suppose the Lord would allow
Some parents to look ahead
And see the example they've given their children!
Would these children have been better led?

Ruth DeLozier

IS IT NOTHING TO YOU?

Is it nothing to you that the day of the Lord
Is trampled beneath the feet?
That the Sabbath of rest
With its holy zest,
Is only for pleasure meet?
Is it nothing to you that the House of the Lord
Is forsaken by young and old?
That they wander away
Like sheep gone astray
From the Shepherd of the fold?
Is it nothing to you that the Word of the Lord
Is neglected and laid aside?
That its precepts old
And its truths of gold
Are yielded for foolish pride?
Is it nothing to you that life should lose
Those treasures of bygone years
That have made us strong
To resist the wrong
And saved us from bitter tears?
Is it nothing to you that in their stead
We have sorrow and sin and shame,
With dross for gold
And loss untold
And tares for the golden grain?
And what have you gained? Will you stop to think?
And think—till you think it through?
Is it worth the price
Or the sacrifice?
Is it nothing at all to you?

J. Ferguson
Wayne Heights Highlights

CALIF. BAPTIST SEMINARY AT COVINA TO CLOSE, JOIN BERKELEY

COVINA, Calif. (EP)—A financial crisis has led to the closing of 30-year-old California Baptist Seminary here, a move decided by the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Inc., in a 31-2 vote Nov. 3.

The institution of the American Baptist Church will conduct classes throughout the year for its 155 students (125 full-time), joining the century-old Berkeley Baptist Divinity School next year.

The new, combined school will include the confessional requirements of the Covina seminary, as well as Covina's "rather advanced curriculum style," according to Vice President Donald Thomas, Professor of Pastoral Theology.

The Melodyland Christian Center in nearby Anaheim had been expected to purchase the 54-acre Covina campus, but at the last moment backed out. Supporters of Melodyland Center are currently leasing facilities on campus, however, for charismatic-type meetings each Sunday.

"The new school may eventually build new facilities near the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley," Dr. Thomas stated. He said the Union is sponsored by nine seminaries of different denominations and offers increased library facilities and research assistance for Baptist students.

Just how many of Covina's faculty of 10 and Berkeley's four professors will be moving to the new school, and how many students at Covina will transfer still is not known. The new school, whose board is the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Inc., will be called simply the American Baptist Seminary. Other schools sponsored by the denomination are Andover-Newton, Northern, Central, Colgate-Rochester, Eastern, Divinity House at the University of Chicago, and a black institution in the South.

LAFF-A-LITTLE

Sales Manager training door-to-door salesman: "Did you notice the look on that lady's face when I told her she didn't look any older than her daughter?"

Trainee: "No, I was looking at the expression on her daughter's face."

It'll never happen—The Internal Revenue Service being unable to send out the Income Tax Forms because of the paper shortage.

Lady to landscape expert: "What would you suggest to plant in a spot that doesn't get much moisture due to overhanging eaves, gets too much sun in the afternoon, consists of clay soil and sits on a rocky ledge?"

Expert: "Well, offhand I would suggest a flagpole."

Professor to doting mother of college student: I agree that your son may have a spark of genius. However, it is my opinion that he also has ignition trouble."

"I DON'T see why you're so mad at your exfiancee," said the friend. "After all, she returned your ring."

"That's right," replied the other. "But she didn't have to mail it back marked, 'Glass, handle with care.' "

"If our car gets much older," complained the motorist, "they'll start issuing it upper and lower plates."

Teenager to clothing salesman: "If my parents like this, can I return it?"

MAN on a crowded bus: "Madam, would you like me to get you a strap to hang onto?"

"No, thank you, I have one."

"Then, would you mind letting go of my necktie?"

One girl to another: "Well, it's true we are having a little disagreement. I want a big church wedding and he wants to break the engagement."

A mother repeatedly asked her small daughter to sit down. Finally, the mother held the little girl by her shoulders and forced her to sit.

Looking at her mother, the little girl announced firmly: "I'm still standing up inside."

"DON'T YOU and your wife ever have a difference of opinion?"

"Sure we do—but I don't tell her."

Number one son also came up with a question the other day, the one that starts, "Hey, dad, where did I come from?" So after a half hour of mental anguish and verbal exercise, I covered most of the birds and bees bit. Feeling rather self-satisfied, I asked if he had any more questions—"Yeah," he said, "My friend Dave came from Portland, Maine, so I was wondering where I came from. . . ."

from Louisville Newsletter

CHEEP ADVICE



What is happening to **your** visitation program? A survey made by the National Retail Dry Goods Association revealed that:

48% of the salesmen made one call and quit.
25% of the salesmen made two calls and quit.
15% of the salesmen made three calls and quit.

So, 88% of them made 1, 2, or 3 calls and quit. Which means that the remaining 12% of the salesmen who kept on calling do 80% of the business.

'EVANGELICAL NEWSLETTER' BY 'ETERNITY' EDITORS DEBUTS

PHILADELPHIA (EP) — The Evangelical Newsletter, containing news analysis and article capsulization, has been launched by the editors of Eternity Magazine.

Edited by Bruce Gunther, the Kiplinger-style biweekly periodical is designed to serve evangelical Christians.

"The time is ripe for a newsletter of this type," Eternity Editor Russell T. Hitt commented. "I'm very encouraged by the initial response we have had; circulation is climbing about twice as rapidly as we had anticipated."

Hitt, also executive of the Evangelical Foundation says the Newsletter will telescope important and significant reading for busy Christians.

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GRANDDAUGHTER'S INGLENOOK COOKBOOK. Favorite recipes of Church of the Brethren cooks. Includes useful household information. Full-color cover and jacket. $4.95.

Order from:
The Brethren Press
Box M., 1451 Dundee Ave.
Elgin, Ill. 60120
(P & H: 35c for first book; 10c each additional book)

INGLENOOK COOK BOOK, 1911 edition. This reprint edition contains cherished recipes of Dunker sisters whose tradition placed high value on culinary excellence. Included are special treats for Sundays and holidays, suggested food for the sick, home remedies, and an interesting table of measures. $4.50.

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The Brethren
EVANGELIST



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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

Marriage from a Biblical Perspective.
Don't miss this study from **Bruce Stark,** Richard Kuns, John Brownsberger and small group interaction.

At the 1974 Brethren Pastor's Conference Park St. Brethren Church, Ashland, Ohio April 30 - May 2.

TIME MARCHES ON



FIFTY YEARS AGO: Officers of THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SOCIETY were: J. A. Garber President; J. F. Locke, Associate; Gladys M. Spice Secretary.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: New Church Building opens its doors for dedication service at Muncie, Indiana.

TEN YEARS AGO: Billy Graham expressed his conviction that the Communists had set 1972 as their target date for the achievement of world domination. (this is one time we might be grateful that Rev. Graham was wrong)—So far.

By the Way

IS IT CLOSE TO BREAKING LOOSE?

Recently we ran an editorial pertaining to the media of radio and television and the types of programs being produced, especially those relating to permissivness concerning sex, violence and profanity and occult.

This time we are extremely fearful of the consequences which are and may be arising alarmingly from a film that is being exploited throughout the nation.

The next few paragraphs are from a news release from the Evangelical Press Association pertaining to the film, "The Exorcist" which is of such a controversial nature that it received quite a bit of time on a national network news broadcast. As we were shown how lines almost a block long were waiting outside the theater entrances, we could almost visualize Satan standing behind the box-office rubbing his greedy and fiendish hands with glee. Read on, friend.

CAMDEN, N.J. (EP)—A new movie shocker, "The Exorcist," is raising more than the usual repercussions of a film having a religious theme, and is prompting considerable discussion and inquiries on the demonic.

According to the Catholic Star Herald, diocesan weekly here, rectories and chancery offices in Camden and Philadelphia are receiving calls. In addition, priests are "boning up" on Satan, demonology and the centuries-old Catholic practice of exorcism.

Reaction to the R-rated film by priests who have seen it—and by some who have not—is mixed, ranging from "very favorable" and "very positive for the Church" to "obscene" and "not fit for viewing."

"The Exorcist," an adaption of William Blatty's novel which deals with the demonic possession of a 12-year-old girl, has reportedly caused a number of Catholics to complain to their parish priests. Several cases of shock and mild hysteria were reported. And there have been a few requests for church-sanctioned exorcisms.

Father Michael Rush of St. Patrick's Parish, Woodbury, N.J., said, "We've had calls asking about the rite of exorcism and three or four requests for special appointments with a priest to alleviate fears some people who have seen the movie haven't been able to shake off."

He said a 19-year-old girl "spent the entire night (after seeing the movie) saying the Rosary with her parents and really needed some special assurances from a priest before she calmed down."

The film according to the Star Herald, "is steeped in terrifying special effects, liberally sprinkled with profanity and carries a number of blasphemous as well as symbolic sequences."

The news article specifically mentions what happened to a 19-year-old girl after viewing this film. The recent newscast on television graphically presented what happened to many viewers. Some had fainted: some became nauseated and some became so overwrought that they just left the theater without staying to see the film to its conclusion.

This ought to tell us something. Granted, exorcism is not new to society as Shakespeare even referred to it when he penned these words pertaining to evoking from the dead, "call spirits from the vasty deep."

Unless this newest threat to society in the realm of Satanism is not thwarted by severe warnings as to the consequences, much of what may be left in a hopefully moral society may find itself on a "slow boat to China" with just enough fuel in its oil bunkers to get it half way across the Pacific Ocean.

There are many books that have been written about this menace to humanity, some by well known authors such as Merrill F. Unger (DEMONS IN THE WORLD TODAY); Richard W. DeHaan (SATAN, SATANISM AND WITCHCRAFT); Hal Lindsay, author of The Late Great Planet Earth (SATAN IS ALIVE AND WELL ON PLANET EARTH); and Mike Warnke, a former high-priest of a satanic worship cult (THE SATAN SELLER).

Mr. Warnke recently spoke at the Convocation Center at Ashland College and to many students on the campus through classes and informal chats with individuals in addition to interviews over the college radio and TV station and the local radio station.

His personal story of the journey from satan worship to a personal relationship with Christ after his conversion to Christianity is one of a moving experience.

Evidence of the impact that is felt from his appearance here is apparent from the bits of conversation one hears on what is happening on campus implementing the Christian Ministry that is being presented on the college grounds.

As to the communities scattered around our nation, "Mike, if you happen to read this editorial, hurry and broaden your horizons, Quick!" (G.S.)

MISSIONARY NEWS

NEW STAFF MEMBERS AT RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN TRAINING SCHOOL



LINDA ZERBE was born in Peru, Indiana and graduated from Maconaquah High School last spring. This summer was a busy one for Linda as she traveled with a Brethren Summer Crusader team helping in church camps and Bible schools. Her favorite hobbies are sewing and cooking and her fine sewing talent is demonstrated in the cheerleaders' new uniforms.

The thing she likes best about working here is being with the students. She supervises a study hall, helps Mrs. Barnett in the office, helps in the dining hall, and is advisor for the cheerleaders. She is very efficient and we're glad she is here.

RICK SWARTZ was born in Lakewood, Ohio and comes to us from Ashland, Ohio where his father manages the First Federal Savings and Loan Association. During school Rick's main goal was to prepare for college but his extra curricular activities included Latin Club, band, and track as well as church league basketball. He began college at Ohio State University and then transferred to Ashland College where he majored in biology and worked as an assistant laboratory instructor. After graduation he worked for Hess and Clark, a research farm, doing pathological studies.

After a time in the United States Navy which included a tour in Viet Nam, Rick worked at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York and while there helped with Key '73. Rick says, "the main reason I endeavored to join the staff at Riverside Christian Training School was that I already had tasted of full-time Christian service while working at the Brethren Home in Flora, Indiana." Welcome Rick.

MR AND MRS. GLENN NEACE, past graduates of Riverside, are the new dorm parents for the girls. Mrs. Neace, Dena, has lived most of her life in Lost Creek and Glenn is from nearby Haddix. Dena is a senior clerk stenographer as a result of training acquired at the Hazard Vocational School and is very talented in music. Coming from a large family, Dena is at home around young people.

Glenn is beginning his second year at Lee's Junior College. He is a sports enthusiast with a special interest and talent in basketball. Besides their work in Wheeler Hall they also help at the Haddix Church where Glenn teaches a Sunday School class and helps with the preaching. What a help they are to us all!

Information is taken from the Riverside BEACON for November, 1973.

WHAT I SAW AT THE COLOMBIAN CHURCH GROWTH WORKSHOP

A Testimony of Thankfulness

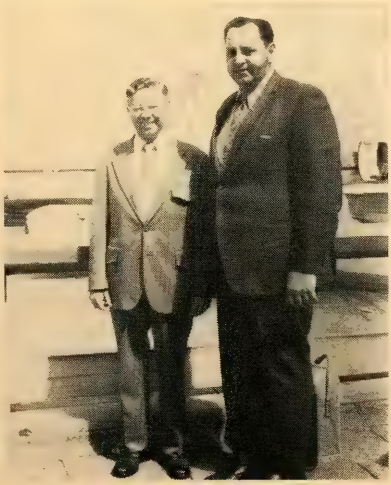
Report by Juan Carlos Miranda

When we arrived at the campground near Cali, Colombia for the first Church Growth/Evangelism workshop, the sun was shining through the mountains but the participants were likely covered by a cloud of uncertainty and discouragement. When we left, two and a half days later, clouds covered the mountains and the camp but the faces of workshop participants and leaders shown with enthusiasm and challenge.

Forty-seven pastors and church leaders, representing twelve denominations and twenty-six churches had a faith projection of sixty new churches and over three thousand new members during the next five years. If these figures are projected nationally for five of the denominations participating it could mean a growth of nine thousand members and three hundred sixty-nine new churches or an increase of one hundred forty-two percent during the five years.

Even before they left the workshop, some of the pastors and church leaders were making plans as to the means of implementing this program for in one year they will gather again to evaluate and share results. Their goals are high but I believe that deep in their hearts they hope and pray that during this first year they can reach the total of the five year projection.

Many hours were spent in hard-working classes meeting from morning till evening with very few breaks but no one minded. All wanted to learn and didn't care to waste time. We felt the devotional periods, where we learned about the Biblical fundamentals for church growth were highlights of the day.



Our main resource leader, Dr. Vergil Gerber, was really a living Chrurch Growth manual and his presentations were clear and challenging. Men responded to the challenge and we all profited from it even though some had to work extra hard to make and interpret charts and graphs. Some of the other leaders were Dr. Wayne Weld, teacher and author of several books, who presented the Theological Education by Extension program as one of the most needed tools for church growth; Rev. Vernor Reimer, director of the Cali Seminary, who presented an eye opening study on the five classes of leadership in the church; and Larry Acton, a missionary from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, whose words and work during those days was very inspiring which also could be said about our host, Mr. Ruperto Velez of Colombia.

But, how did all of this affect me, an Argentine pastor who travelled from Buenos Aires sponsored by the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church in response to an invitation from the Evangelical Committee on Latin America and its director, Dr. Vergil Gerber. Was the investment worthwhile? I know now that it was and I pray that as we put into practice what was learned, others will also know that it was worthwhile. What an experience!

As I listened to these leaders from Colombia report of their successes and failures, I could close my eyes and it seemed like I was back in Argentina. Surprising to find out that we share the same problems and successes. Now they are one step ahead of us because they have had their workshop and have made their faith projection and have discovered ways to implement their program. I pray that the Lord will use me and the others who have already shared this experience so that we here in Argentina might have similar workshops and faith projections with growth results for our church here.

Our Brethren churches are beginning to see and think Church Growth. The feeling of a few is shared now by many and we have stopped to think about it and taken steps to MAKE IT HAPPEN. We have God's promise—and His commandment for what we have to do and the Holy Spirit will be faithful to support us as we work. What an impact this can be in Argentina!

My opportunity began September 12th as the workshop started and my responsibility to my co-workers and to those who have not heard the gospel started September 14th as the workshop ended. I express my gratitude to God; for allowing me to go, to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church for taking care of my expenses, and to Dr. Vergil Gerber for inviting me and letting me share in this experience. They all have done their part . . . now it is my turn. I hope and pray that I will be effective.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



SEEING WHEN YOU LOOK

A good teacher needs to be, among other things, a good observer. She needs to learn to listen and watch with all of her ears and eyes so that she can understand each child. We have known this for some time, but only recently have we really tried to work at it.

We have been trying to free one teacher occasionally at Brethren House to observe a particular child. Without the child's knowledge, the appointed observer will write everything he sees the child doing, how long he does that activity, and any known distraction or motivation that takes him off that course. Then at a later time the teachers sit down together and analyze the behaviors of the child who was watched. We try to infer from this observation strengths, needs, and behavior patterns.

To the uninitiated in teaching, this may seem like a grand waste of time. But it is not, if we really mean what we say when we talk about meeting the needs of individuals. In order to help each child learn and grow, we must know **how** he learns and what he is **ready** to learn. Specifically then, this is what we want to know about each one:

1. What does he like to do? Why?
2. What does he avoid doing? Why?
3. How capable does he feel?
4. What skills does he lack that keep him from working independently?
5. Does he learn better by listening or seeing?
6. What threatens him? Why?
7. What motivates him?

These are some of the areas that we need to explore with each child to enable us to teach effectively. Of course, in conversations with the chilren, we are always seeking to discover their knowledge of Bible truths, their capacity for compassion, their values, so that we can plan experiences that will lead them to greater growth in these areas. It is a continuing, never-ending process. We all keep learning.

After watching the children closely and noting our inferences, we are more adept at planning for each one's needs and growth. We learn what motivates each one.

Lord, open our eyes, our ears, and our minds that we may become more sensitive observers of the children and adults around us so that we can lead them to Thee.

—Jean

YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN

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They Will Learn:
—WHO the missionaries are,
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—WHY THEY SERVE as missionaries,
—THEIR JOYS in serving,
—THEIR DISAPPOINTMENTS in serving,
—THE EXPERIENCES that led them into missionary service.

Possible uses:
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—Evening Youth Groups,
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—(Each child can work according to his own interest and speed).

Order the Kit from the
Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
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Prices: $3.80 for Teacher's Guide and 4 sets of Resource Cards.
$.30 for each pupil book.

Prepared by Brethren House for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church



CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH

THEME: BAPTISM MEMORIAL

SUGGESTED DATES: MONTHS OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH

TIME: DURING MIDWEEK SERVICES— SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICES

MATERIAL: DIGEST OF BAPTISM MEMORIAL PAPERS

There has been a fine response thus far in the ordering of the Digest. The Committee appreciates this response. More are being printed so keep your orders coming. Order through Central Council Office.

Baptism Committee

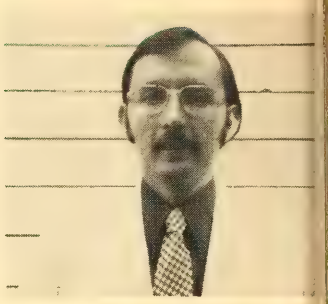


Digest of
Baptism Memorial Study Papers

The Brethren Church
Ashland, Ohio

1973

RETREAT, WHO NEEDS IT?



by Jack Oxenrider

In approaching the last quarter of the Twentieth Century strength and confidence in the development and capability of man are more evident than at any other time in history. "The growing proof of man's capability seems to be the triumph of the moon landing. The gigantic satellite launching towers were hailed by many as technological cathedrals built to the glory of modern man."[1] One might think this to be the apex of technology, yet close on the heals of this triumph are still countless additional projections. All of this put together asserts the premise, "A man can do all things if he will."[2]

Ironically, the same century which has witnessed the magnificants of man's capabilities, has also suffered most from his cruelty. Somehow the man worshipping splendor of the moon landing becomes insignificant in the memory of the riots of the late sixties. The awfulness of the Indo-China War raises questions on man's wisdom and judgment. The stillness in the air following Kent State and the University of Wisconsin incidents seem to be void of all hope. The recent disclosures of corruption in American government leave people disillusioned. In parallel the cities which stand as towering monuments to man's "all-ability" with factories, office buildings, universities, computer centers, and banks are at the same time ecologically, morally, and existentially unsafe for habitation.

The crisis of the day which springs from the complexity and confusion of the Twentieth Century Culture is no secret. There is no further need to document the major problems of our culture because they are experienced and recognized by us all. Likewise, there seems to be little need of critical commentary on modern culture. Critics are all around us and their opinions are readily available. What is needed is a solution! There is to this day no sign that society has or can solve its own problems.

Os Guinness in **The Dust of Death,** establishes the basis of this paradox to be the "erosion" of Christianity and a Christian basis of thinking from western culture. In its place optimistic humanism and scientific explanation became the foundation stones of the modern world. The Twentieth Century, however has fallen short of meeting the expectations of these optimistic thinkers. While humanism openly and deliberately attacked Christianity, it failed to provide sufficient alternatives to a post-christian world. The removal or denial of the Spirit and the spiritual, and the acceptance of a mechanistic world view has left man himself as a machine without identity, purpose, and void of relationships to his fellowman, the world around him, and with God.

Thus we have the word "alientation" which has become a hallmark to describe modern society. This is the cancer which increases daily and eats away at the lives of people and our society. Here is where the real failure of the technological society is evident. Alvin Toffler's **Future Shock,** one of the most technologically optimistic writings of our day says, "Unless man quickly learns to control the rate of change in his personal affairs as well as in society at large, we are doomed to a massive adaptational breakdown."[3] Here even the optimist admits that something is wrong, yet a solution is not forthcoming.

Francis Schaeffer points out that regardless of what man says about himself and the world around him, "man is what he is, he isn't what he isn't." Every man must live in the real world because he has been made by God to live in that world. Man has been created in the image of God for the purpose of having fellowship with Him. Man is a creature just as nature and his fellowman and therefore has an inseparable relationship with them. Yet, man is man, and while he is in a sense one with nature, he is also above nature in the image of God which gives him a unique quality of manishness. When these truths of relationship to the real world are distorted or denied the result is a strain upon man. This is the strain of alienation which is now tearing the modern world.

Like the world, the Church today and throughout history has not been void of its difficulties. There is the problem of the infectious "old nature" in the lives of the regenerate. While a man is "reborn" by the Spirit of God, he remains in the former shell with all of the training and inclinations toward the unreligious life. This becomes an even more serious problem today because the people of God must live in the context of alienation. As a result the church finds these same problems present and operating within its own people. In many cases this infiltration of humanism and its problems have become so serious that the church has become confused with regards to its shape, mission and destiny. The essence of the Christian message has been so distorted that it is no longer an alternative to man!

The Christian message offers the only alternative to the contemporary crisis because it speaks

o all of existence. It speaks to both the physical nd the spiritual realms. This message speaks to nan as a total man. He is not a machine. Man is unique creation of God made to live in a reason- ble universe. "The strength of the Christian sys- em—the acid test of it—is that everything fits nder the apex of the existent infinite-personal od, and it is the only system in the world where his is true. No other system has an apex under hich everything fits."[5]

The Church can, therefore, speak exact truth nto a confused and critical situation. Where cience and technology are ignorant and silent, he Christian can speak clearly. The solution must it the real world, and the Christian solution based pon God's revealed truth does just that. The iberal church has compromised with the human- st and as such has become one with the culture, osing all basis for an alternative message. On the ther hand the fundamental church, while holding o the truth of Scripture, has failed to commun- cate that truth with meaning and understanding o our day and age. Having truth is not enough! ruth must be communicated, and communica- ion involves more than words. Plain words are ot enough! They are necessary and the Christian nust never stop speaking truth into the culture, ut words are not enough. The Christian must ommunicate in terms of truth, experience, and elationships. He must speak the truth and then e must demonstrate by reason, experience, and elationships the truthfulness of his words.

Upon the preceding foundation let us now con- ider the retreat. In today's culture, Christian re- reats can plant and cultivate the biblical solution n the lives of individuals. The context of retreat an be a significant factor in bringing a person nto a first confession of faith and experience with Christ. It can also be an agent of renewal in the hearts and lives of believers which results in greater discipleship.

"Critics of our culture warn us of the perils of ur society that arise from this situation of the onely individual surrounded by impersonal masses f human beings. If our society is to be restored o health, and to humane living, ways must be found to re-create the first-hand personal relation- hips between men that they are so rapidly los- ng."[6] The answers of the Christian faith may well be ideal, but they fit the real world. While technology and science have provided affluence, they have fallen far short of utopian dreams. The Christian alternative is the only viable solution!

"Under the strain of our living today we succumb with increasing frequency to the domination of this unconscious life. Unless we can find periodic occasions for dealing with it and for renewing the wholeness of our life we are doomed to die with it."[7] Such periodic occasions are the role and the particular offering of retreat. This is a highly effective means of speaking and exemplifying the Christian alternatives for living.

The retreat finds its particular value in its divorce from the System. Retreats give each individual an opportunity to encounter himself, the truth of the Christian faith, and the experience of vital personal relationships with God and with others. These are the fulfillments which go to the very roots of modern needs.

Detachment is a key to retreat. Then sense of being in a new setting, and apart from the normal routine opens the way for new considerations and experiences. It provides opportunities apart from the mad rush of life and the tensions of social paradox allowing people a chance for meaningful reflection. Retreat is an opportunity to witness and experience the workings of the Christian faith. It is a time for restoration through a new relationship with God, other people and oneself.

In this complex and demanding day and age it is essential that we retreat for rest, fellowship and renewal. You can never be too busy for retreat. The rule of thumb—the degree to which one is involved in life, is the degree to which one needs to retreat. Retreats, who needs them? We do!

FOOTNOTES

[1] Os. Guinness, **The Dust of Death** (Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1973), p. 10.

[2] Ibid., P. 5, quoting Kenneth Clark, **Civilization** London: John Murry L & d, 1971), p. 104.

[3] Alvin Toffler, **Future Shock** (New York: Random House, 1970), p. 4.

[4] Francis A. Schaeffer, **Modern Man and Epistemology,** Lecture given at Grove City College, March, 1972.

[5] Francis A. Schaeffer, **He Is There and He Is Not Silent** (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, 1972), p. 81.

[6] John L. Casteel, **Spiritual Renewal Through Personal Groups** (New York: Association Press, 1957), p. 24.

[7] John L. Casteel, **Renewal in Retreat** (New **York:** Association Press, 1959), p. 21.

Reminder

It's Coming! The event of the year!

WHY CHURCH RETIREMENT FACILITIES?

The impetus for the work of The Benevolent Board comes from the heart of the teaching of Christ as exemplified in the parable of the Good Samaritan—helping those who are in need. We are quick to confess our concern for others and our intent to help, but we are slow to act.

We are the richest nation in the world, and the 2 garage, 2 car, 3 TV set family is considered only an average family. Most wage earners' tax deductions are greater than their salaries were for the same jobs thirty years ago. But in spite of all this abundance and these blessings of material possessions, we have let our older generation truly become the forgotten generation. We soon forget their many contributions made to the spiritual, economic, cultural, and social advancement of our great nation.

Men and women who were giants in all walks of life in their day are often put out of sight and out of mind! They stop living although they are still alive. This is very wrong because these people have so much to live for and so much to give.

Age has very little to do with our outreach if we put aside a few customs of our society which make a man a giant at 64+ and a 'has been' the day he reaches sixty-five. Yet history proves that many of the world's greatest leaders were unheard of until they had passed their 65th birthday.

The time has come when persons of all ages—children, youth, middle aged, and older citizens—must unite in standing up for the rights of the aged.

These rights include dignity and independence in pleasant surroundings and the opportunity to continue to be active and useful.

All types of facilities have sprung up which cater to the needs of the elderly in recent years. Unfortunately, not all such places have proved beneficial for our senior citizens. We would like to share with you why we believe church retirement facilities offer excellent possibilities for the elderly in their years of retirement.

CONSIDERATE CARE

Putting concern into action, we provide not just "maintenance" care but considerate care. Christ serves as our example that the elderly should not only exist but LIVE. No longer should they mark out lonely and empty days—they can serve as abilities permit and be served as needed. Church retirement facilities provide that "extra" to make the golden years even better . . . and that "extra" is that someone cares!

NON-PROFIT PRICES

The plight of the elderly in profit-making centers has all too often been a story of sky-rocketing charges that have forced them to abandon much needed care. Not all facilities of this type have considered excessive profit over the needs of senior citizens but the risk is high. Non-profit agencies are by their very nature excluded from profit taking at the expense of their residents. This is not to say that charges do not rise from time to time in church retirement facilities because today's cost of operations necessitate additional charges. However, we make every attempt to hold charges to a minimum. This is possible because of gifts from churches to subsidize retirement centers and even provide benevolent care for those who have little or no funds.

SERVING SPECIAL NEEDS

A big "plus" of church retirement facilities is the consideration for spiritual needs. These are implemented in worship services, Bible studies, individual scripture readings or recordings provided for the person with poor vision, transportation to church services and functions outside the center, and others.

Another area where special needs are met at Brethren Care and The Brethren's Home are items of personal needs that are donated by churches and individulas so residents may have them free of charge. Such things are provided as personal cleanliness articles, hairnets, shoestrings, lap robes, foot warmers, greeting cards, writing supplies, stamps and on and on the list can go.

Our centers truly provide a home and not just a "place to be." Activities, parties, special programs, articles of personal furniture, family and friends welcomed for meals and visits all add up to a real home where our elderly can live comfortably and pleasantly.

Are you considering entering a retirement facility? Search carefully and we urge you to seriously consider church retirement facilities. At present The Brethren Church has two centers in Indiana and Ohio with more on the drawing boards. For detailed information on each of our centers contact:

THE BRETHREN'S HOME
Gene Geaslen, Administrator
Rt. 2, Box 97
Flora, Indiana 46929
Phone: 219-967-3783

BRETHREN CARE
L. E. Seaman, Administrator
2000 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805
Phone: 419-289-1585.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE NON-PROFIT RETIREMENT CENTER?

What is the future of the non-profit retirement center in the next ten to twenty years? Let's take a look at some of the future trends.

The non-profit center must expel any mode of offering just one service and must adapt its facility and land to multi-purpose care units, offering self-care on a day care basis, short-term care of a week-end to a few weeks, apartment and single room dwellings as well as mobile home facilities for the traveling aged person. All the latter services will lead to facilities offering different degrees of nursing care within an institutional setting.

The non-profit center must not only be a gathering community offering quality care to the aged person, but must scatter its service to the aged person in the community. Examples are the foster care, legal care, financial counseling, meals-on-wheels, and homemakers programs.

The non-profit center must enter into an informal but effective cooperative relationship with government, industry, local churches and other non-profit centers within a given geographical area providing the above life giving program. The results of this cooperation should be efficient stewardship of resources and quality services.

The non-profit center must continue to stress the employment of qualified and creative personnel and create a community and church-centered volunteer program rendering care to the aged person in the facility and the community.

The non-profit center must continue to serve the aged person who cannot pay for services rendered, and must also define benevolent care to the financially capable person as being the actual cost of operation, not a penny more of less.

New vistas and new challenges are presenting themselves to the church today. Will we respond positively?

—Taken in part from THIS 'N THAT, Quincy United Methodist Home, Quincy, Pennsylvania

WAYS YOU CAN HELP!

BEQUESTS

The Benevolent Board appreciates the support of concerned Brethren for its work with the elderly. Gifts and offerings as well as investments enable us to carry forth our commission to serve the senior citizens of our land.

There are two more ways you can participate in the ministry of The Benevolent Board — Bequests and Memorials.

A Bequest through your will shares your treasures with those in need. Following is a suggested form of Bequest:

"I hereby devise and bequest unto The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church, an Ohio Non-Profit Corporation, with its principal office at Ashland, the following: If real estate, please describe; if money, state amount; if stocks, bonds, etc., designate specifically."

MEMORIALS

Gifts to The Benevolent Board in memory of a loved one or friend will aid in our ministry. Families of those whose memories you have honored will be notified of the contributions by an appropriate card. Just complete the Living Memorial form and send it with your gift to:

THE BENEVOLENT BOARD
625 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805

A LIVING MEMORIAL

Given by _____
NAME

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

In memory of _____
NAME

Family to whom notification card should be sent

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

$ _____
AMOUNT

The Brethren LAYMAN



SOME COMMENTS ON THE GOALS cont.

by Jim Payne

"The Laymen's Goals are basically a means to an end. . . . The end is to 'lead other men to Christ.'"

GOAL SEVEN. A contribution for the national project. . . . Give unto the Lord and He will return unto you full measure. The projects are prayed about and selected by dedicated men. Bill Curtis writes me that a good start in the Spanish language mission is under way. They have made acquaintance with an older Mexican pastor who has been a great help already in making contacts and establishing confidence. They refer to him as Pastor Morales. I hope to get some pictures in January.

All of our projects: Youth Crusaders, John Guli language translation, the Seminary Scholarship, and the Spanish Language mission are all directed toward **Soul Winning**.

GOAL EIGHT. At least one recruit for the Brethren ministry! What a Privilege! To have a part in the encouragement and assistance to one who God has called into preparation for full time service is just that. These recruits do need to be "called of God," but by our encouragement they will find it possible to heed God's call, and a base of goodwill toward our brotherhood will be formed early in their experience.

GOAL NINE. Reading the New Testament. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. It is a great blessing to have God's word in printed form but we cannot share what we have not received. Let us read the New Testament this year with the purpose of "sharing it with others." I am making a study of Joseph, the "Layman of Obedience" and the "Relative of Jesus" with the purpose of sharing these thoughts. Another interesting study is the "Priesthood of Christ" given in Hebrews and referring to the prophecy in Psalms 110:1-4. Faith is another possession of ours, which the more we share, the more we have.

GOAL TEN. Calling on the sick, elderly, or shut-ins. ONE CALL EACH MONTH? When God said go ye into ALL the world? This is a very modest goal and can easily be done with a most pleasant reward for the effort expended. The joy of expressing our concern for others in their spiritual and physical health. Jesus gave us the example of a "calling ministry." Think of those individuals and small groups he fellowshiped with.

GOAL ELEVEN. Your church 100% for the EVANGELIST. We hope, trust, and pray that this layman's page alone will be a real incentive for keeping the EVANGELIST coming to every home. We will do our best to keep up to date news and information to inspire you in your Christian life. If read in every home the EVANGELIST can help fulfill the statement of "We are led by ONE Spirit into the ONE body of Jesus Christ."

PRESIDENT PAYNE VISITS ILLINOIS CHURCHES

On Saturday, December 15, President Payne and a fellow Burlington Layman, Max Wilson, traveled to Milledgeville, Illinois for the Central District Laymen's Rally. They were met there by an overwhelming snow storm that cancelled the Rally but were able to have a time of fellowship with the Milledgeville laymen.

The men met at the parsonage for a presentation of the National Laymen's work. President Payne discussed the laymen's projects adopted for 1974 and presented the Goals program. After a satisfying smorgasbord meal in the evening the group enjoyed an inspirational Bible study with Rev. Black. The visitors were the guests of Owen Nye for the night.

On Sunday morning they arose early and drove to Lanark for Sunday worship. President Payne was privileged to speak to the men and boys of the Lanark church during the Sunday School hour and then enjoyed the Lanark Choir's Christmas cantata.



Pres. Jim Payne, third from left, poses with some of the Milledgeville laymen. Milledgeville pastor, Jim Black is in the right foreground with Jim and John Rowsey just behind him. Harlan Hollewell and Owen Nye are in the center, back row.



Lanark laymen shown are: front, l. to r.—Ted Wilt, Leroy Thompson, Earl Wilkens, Emerson Ishe, Ken Geiss, Bob Guenzler, Keith Kniss. Back row—Duane Kniss, Ken Erbson, Bob Michael, Ken Truman, Rev. Paul Steiner.

WATERLOO REPORT

The Waterloo, Iowa laymen keep a busy schedule of service to their church and community. The following is a resume of their activities for 1973.

The Waterloo laymen hold a regular meeting each month on the second Tuesday except in February and November. These are special months.

In February they have their annual Sweetheart Banquet. This year they enjoyed a fine meal with their wives and were then inspired with a challenging message on witnessing given by a fine Christian layman from the Waterloo schools.

In November they held their Father - Son Banquet. After the dinner, served by the Waterloo W.M.S., one of the laymen gave a devotional message, and then the boys were entertained by a magician. The evening of inspiration and entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all present.

During the year several of the Waterloo Laymen had charge of the Sunday afternoon worship service at several nursing homes in the area. They also keep busy making repairs on the church and parsonage at Waterloo and at the mission church at Cedar Falls and have purchased several needed pieces of equipment for the church.

During the summer they sponsor a Softball team in the Waterloo Church League, paying the entry fee and furnishing equipment and the manager.

This fall the men began showing a series of Christian films once a month and have been active in the KEY 73 campaign. Some of the men attended the Lay Institute for Evangelism sponsored by KEY 73 and others the Lay Institute directed by our own Arden Gilmer in Waterloo.

The organization holds two memberships in the ten dollar club and have had representation at District and National conference through the years.

Their Public service was scheduled for December.

NEWS FROM SHIPSHEWANA



Rest, Fellowship and Renewal were on tap this fall for those who entered into retreat here at Shipshewana. The retreat season began with a Jr. High retreat held over the Halloween weekend. Here these youth considered the theme, "Behold I Make All Things New." Through the dynamic of small fellowship groups, and personal study and experience based on the principles of Psalms 139 these Jr. Highs began to see themselves as unique creations of God. The retreat was highlighted by a group worship service on Sunday morning. There these young Christians presented banners of deep spiritual truth which expressed their thanks and praise to God for his wonderful work in creation and in their lives.



The warm November fall was a fit setting for the fellowship and joy which the men of Indiana experienced as they entered into their retreat. In a progressive encounter with the Epistle of I John these men considered the theme of love for the brethren and unity within the Faith. As the Spirit of God moved within the hearts and lives of these men it was exciting and challenging. The bonds of unity and fellowship built in this retreat can only be fully appreciated by those who experienced it. Evening campfires in the Laymen's Lodge were the highpoints of each day as men gathered around the fire to sing and give praise to God. The retreat



drew to a close in an exciting service of true brotherhood and sincere worship.

December hosted the Northern Indiana Youth in a consideration of Christian Discipleship. Quarters were cramped by a large group, but the togetherness lended itself to an enriching experience. Saturday afternoon football got a little rough—life can be that way also. The guidance and direction of the Scriptures lead these young people into positive and encouraging direction for life and its decisions. In the Sunday morning worship, creative expressions of praise and honor were given to God by these youth as they lifted their hearts in thanks to God for the work He has done, is doing, and will continue to do in their lives.

The winter season at Shipshewana will see the Indiana Pastors in a retreat consideration of Communion. The youth will return for fun and fellowship in the snow. As spring creeps in the ladies of Indiana will enter into their retreat.

A retreat is an exciting experience for fellowship, and Spiritual growth. The atmosphere of the Center, the fellowship with mature Christians and the dynamic power of the Living Word is a welcome oasis in the desert and rat-race of everyday life.

Submitted by Jack Oxenrider
Retreat Coordinator

ASHLAND HOLDS ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS DINNER



Decisions—decisions!, or is Dr. Joe Shultz trying to stop a sneeze? Delbert Mellinger and wife Marian are in the left foreground.

On December 19, in the Fellowship Hall of the Church, the Ashland Park Street Men's Fellowship sponsored their first Annual All-Church Christmas Dinner. Some ten to fifteen years ago the first Laymen's Christmas Dinner was held in one of the local supper clubs with about twenty men and wives in attendance.

This year the men's group, now known as the Men's Fellowship because of the number of Elders in the congregation, decided to open the dinner to all adults in the church. The record attendance of 80 showed the wisdom of the decision.

The evening began with the diners gathering in the church parlors for punch and conversation, while the legendary Fern Smith and her assistants put the finishing touches on the buffet.

In due time they were working their way down both sides of a sumptious board spread with Rolled Turkey, Beef & Noodle casserole, Baked Beans, Creamed Asparagus, Scalloped Potatoes, Relishes, Mixed Fruit and mince pie for dessert.

Following the dinner those assembled enjoyed singing the familiar Christmas Carols and songs and then were entertained by a Choral Reading group from the Park Street Choir. The group, composed of Joe and Doris Shultz, Bill and Bev Hess, Dale and Marcia Stoffer, and Dorman Ronk, was accompanied by Joan Ronk on the piano and Tim Shultz and Brad Weidenhamer on percussion. The evening was topped by a monologue entitled "The Shepherd That Didn't Go To Bethlehem" portrayed by Charles Munson.

The Committee in charge of the affair was, Brad Weidenhamer, Chairman, Bill Hubler, Howard Mack, and Elton Whitted. Janet Hubler, Betty Snyder and Doris Shultz furnished the decorations and presided at the punch bowl.



Betty Snyder and Janet Hubler, center and right, preside at the punch bowl before the Park Street All Church Dinner.





WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO WHAT'S HIS NAME?

Leroy "Pat" Patterson

Rev. Patterson is campus chaplain of Wheaton (Ill.) College and held pastorates in New England and the Midwest for nearly 30 years.

Eavesdropping has never been one of my vices but, under the circumstances, it could hardly have been avoided. I was having lunch at a local restaurant when three men came in and sat down in the booth behind me. Since we were the only people in that part of the restaurant, it was impossible for me to tune out their conversation.

One man asked, "What ever happened to what's his name?" This triggered a hearty laugh, and I smiled sympathetically into my coffee because I am also affiliated with the "what's his name" syndrome.

"Oh, you know," he persisted, "I mean that red-headed kid who used to come to Sunday school every week on the church bus and just about drove the driver up a tree." It became apparent to me that I had become an anonymous guest at a church staff meeting, which is a privilege reserved only for a favorable few.

"You must mean Donnie Watson," the younger of the trio exclaimed. "He graduated from high school a year or so ago and, the last I heard, he had gone to college somewhere." None of them could remember exactly which college it was, so the subject was dropped; and they went on to discuss weightier matters, including the planning of a Sunday school contest.

As I picked up my check and left the restaurant, I was conscious of a deepseated uneasiness about that incident. I also felt an uncomfortable twinge of guilt as I thought of the scores of "what's his names" who had left my church to go away to college and had never returned.

Since becoming the campus minister at Wheaton College, I have been viewing the scene from the student's perspective. I find myself ministering to quite a few students who have little contact with their home churches. They feel that their church has lost interest in them. One girl summed it up by saying, "I have a great respect for my pastor; but I don't know him, and he doesn't really know me." This might be excusable in a large church, but few of our students come from large churches.

This problem so intrigued me that I decided to find out why these students felt such a lack of loyalty to their home churches. I sent out a questionnaire through the college post office to almost 2,000 students and received more than 700 replies. According to the pollsters, this is a better than average response, which indicates a very personal interest.

Having reasons for believing that the student disinterest was largely due to the church's neglect, I asked four simple questions. First, "While at college, have you had any personal correspondence from your pastor, either regularly or irregularly? Out of 700 replies, only 42 students said that their pastor had kept in touch with them on a regular basis, while 182 others said that they had heard from their pastors on a very infrequent basis. But the tragic figure showed that 475 students out of 700 had never received a single note from their pastors!

The second question was, "Have you had any communication from others within the church?" The answer to this question was a little more encouraging. One-half of the students responding said that they had received correspondence from time to time from their former youth leaders, Sunday school teachers or other members of the church.

My third question asked, "Are you on the church mailing list to receive regularly the church newsletters, bulletins or other information?" Slightly under half of the students admitted that they never received any information from their church, other than what their parents sent.

My last question was, "When you are home for the summer and holidays, is there any church-sponsored activity for college students?" Again, a little less than half of the students polled said that there were no special church activities or planned get-togethers for them when they returned home.

You do not need to have a degree in psychology to read the results of this simple survey. It says loud and clear that, by its neglect, the church has contributed to the delinquency of its college constituency. Why should a student, who has been cut off from communication with his home church, any longer feel a strong bond of loyalty towards it? As one student said to me, "My church no doubt realizes that after graduation I probably will be moving to a different part of the country and will not be a prospect for membership."

It would appear that the local church has some fences to mend if it wants its young people really to believe the motto on the church bulletin, "The Church That Cares." My purpose in this article is to suggest some positive ideas for cultivating the continuing interest of our churches' college students.

First, if we are going to establish a bond of loyalty with our college students, we must begin before they leave us. Those last two years of high school are extremely critical. We cannot wait until the spring graduation to start showing interest.

A number of churches have attacked this problem by developing a college prep class in the Sunday School, limited to high school seniors, and preferably taught by the pastor. The class begins each fall and continues through the entire school year, dealing with such subjects as **Christian evidences, church history, the role of the church, responsible sex attitudes, Christian ethics,** some **vocational guidance,** and **the Christian world view.** At some time during the year the class should be confronted with the major non-Christian philosophies the student will be facing. A debate on the question of the Christian college versus the secular college should provide several lively sessions. The possibilities are unlimited. It is advisable for the pastor to bring in resource people, from his own congregation if possible, who are specialists in these areas of knowledge. No pastor is so widely read that he can be an expert in every subject. Furthermore, by bringing in others to participate, the pastor will not only be providing variety, he will be giving gifted people within his own congregation an opportunity to minister.

One pastor makes use of his college students who are in the area, or who return for holidays, to share with the class their own personal experiences. This kind of information from their peers will be very helpful to the prospective college student.

Another very effective idea was promoted by my Minister of Youth a few years ago. He established a library of college catalogs, bulletins and year books, and displayed them prominently in the youth lounge. Most colleges are more than happy to send these materials free of charge, and it will save the prospective student hours of time normally spent in writing to different colleges for information. It was not uncommon to see high school students spending hours pouring over the various catalogs and year books.

"You do not need to have a degree in psychology to read the results."

One of the most profitable things a pastor can do in cementing a lasting relationship with his high school seniors is to have a personal interview with each one before he graduates. This can be very time consuming, but it is most rewarding. The student who goes away to college with the memory of his pastor's very personal prayer is bound to have a warm feeling toward his pastor and his church.

There is a church which has the practice of holding a special "College Student Farewell Sunday" just prior to Labor Day. The morning service is a recognition service for graduates, and the evening service concludes with a farewell supper. One of the students from that church said to me, "We like to pretend that we are too sophisticated for that but, deep down, all of us kids really appreciated it." He very proudly showed me a copy of **The Living New Testament,** inscribed with a personal message from his pastor. A similar copy had been presented to each graduating student at the farewell supper.

These are only a few of the ways in which the local church can prepare its prospective students for college, and thus create a continuing bond of fellowship. This is one of the most crucial times in the life of the young Christian. By showing this kind of interest, the church communicates its concern, and insures the lasting loyalty of the young person.

Second, if we expect the student to maintain his loyalty to the home church, we must not only show our interest in him before he leaves but we

must also maintain communication with him during his absence.

There are a number of simple ways this can be done. One method is to provide each student with a four-year subscription to a good Christian periodical. This may appear to be rather costly, but it is one of the most important investments a church can make. For some students, this provides the only spiritual nourishment they get, and some have testified later that it was largely responsible for keeping them true to God. Not only does it provide encouragement, it also helps equip the student for facing conflicting philosophies.

"I remember a dejected student who showed me a mimeographed letter from his pastor. . . ."

I know of one church that not only provides a four-year gift subscription to a good periodical for its students, but it has budgeted for other Christian reading material as well. This is a special fund administered by the pastor for sending the most significant current religious books to his college constituency. There is a student on our campus who comes up to me periodically and shows me a new paperback he has just received from his pastor. He is quite pleased that his pastor has written a personal greeting on the fly leaf. This kind of involvement in the student's life costs very little in time or money, but it says loud and clear, "My church is interested in me."

I remember a dejected student who showed me a mimeographed letter he had received from his pastor. It was newsy, clever and full of bright quotations, but extremely impersonal. The student summed it up by saying, "I guess he must crank these out by the dozens!" The pastor who doesn't have time to jot a brief greeting once a month to his college students is too busy. Even the dictated letter, signed by the church secretary in the pastor's absence, can be rather professionally impersonal.

Another very profitable idea utilized by some churches is to feature in the bulletin a "Student of the Week" for special prayer. This is not only a reminder to the congregation to pray for those students away from home, but it tells the student that he is not forgotten. Other churches maintain a special College Student Bulletin Board, with clippings, letters and up-to-date addresses of the students. This requires constant vigilance, but it pays dividends.

Then, in addition to cementing the ties with the college student before he leaves and maintaining communication with him after he leaves, we must make him feel welcome and needed when he returns. This may be done on both a group and an individual basis.

In a church in our area the pastor, his wife and staff host an annual Christmas buffet for the returning students and their guests. It is held at five o'clock on a Sunday afternoon in the church parlors. Each year the young people look forward to seeing their old friends at this dinner. It provides a beautiful tie-in with the home church. Those who care to do so remain for the evening service, and many of them take part in the program.

It is difficult to maintain a program for college students through the summer because so many of them are working, going to school, or traveling. But a dedicated couple whom I know has open house every Friday evening through the summer, and students are invited to come. They meet out on the patio, weather permitting, and around popcorn, potato chips and occasionally hot dogs, they have a good lively discussion on biblically related themes. The size of the group may vary from week to week, but the students always know that there is a place to go every Friday. The pastor of this young couple, along with his wife, attends as often as possible. This is simply another way of saying, "We are glad to have you back."

We must be careful, however, that, in attempting to serve the student, we fail to let him serve his church. Many of these students could teach in the Sunday school or help in the nursery. Most Sunday schools are looking desperately for substitutes for the summer. Some students could teach a three or four-week series of lessons in the Junior or Senior High Department. I remember a time when four strong young college boys asked me if they could take all the screens down and hose them off. Naturally, they enjoyed hosing each other off, as well. In addition to having a good time, they made a small contribution to the upkeep of the church property. The possibilities of channeling this reservoir of youthful talent and energy is unlimited.

If I had the opportunity of reliving my more than 30 years of ministry, I certainly would do more to maintain contact with the many students who have gone out from my churches. For I have learned that the college student who has had such a caring church and pastor will usually have a wholesome attitude towards the church. Furthermore, when he graduates from college, gets married and settles down, he will be more inclined to get involved with a local church. On the other hand, the church that writes off its students when they leave, can expect to be written off by the students.

If we have to ask, "Whatever happened to what's his name," I hope we will become convicted enough to find out.

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WHAT EVER HAPPENS TO BRETHREN YOUTH?

Where do they go when they graduate from high school? Many continue their education by attending a college, a Bible institute, or a vocational-technical school. After this, some also seek more graduate **training.**



Where do they go to school? Here is a list of schools and Brethren students, as compiled from the 1973 College Student Rosters returned to the BCE office by pastors.

Yale (New Haven, CT)
Roger Fallot - Louisville
Allegheny Community College (Monroeville, PA)
Cheryl Livingston - Pittsburgh
Pat Quinlin - Pittsburgh
Electronics Institute (Pittsburgh, PA)
Terry Gossard - Vinco
Conemaugh Valley School of Nursing (Johnstown, PA)
Joyce Cole - Vinco
Diane Stutzman - Vinco
Bernice Parks - Vinco
University of Pittsburg at Johnstown (Johnstown, PA)
Paul Aurandt - Vinco
Bryan Lynch - Vinco
Rob Dysert - Vinco
Altoona Hospital School of Nursing (Altoona, PA)
Janice Straub - Vinco
Penn State University (University Park, MD)
Carol Bobenage - Vinco
Ewdard Hildebrand - Vinco
Morgan State College (Baltimore, MD)
Barbria Trout - Washington, D.C.
U.S. Naval Academy (Annapolis, MD)
James Bobenage - Vinco
Salisbury State College (Salisbury, MD)
Deborah Saylor - Linwood
Ohio Valley School of Nursing (Wheeling, WV)
Brenda Murphy - Cameron
West Virginia University (Morgantown, WV)
Robert Bonar, Jr. - Cameron
Floyd County Junior College (Rome, GA)
Ronnie Teat - Sarasota
Jacksonville State University (Jacksonville, FL)
Bob Alvarez - Jefferson
Florida State University (Tallahassee, FL)
Bob Dillard - Sarasota
Vicki Osborn - Sarasota
University of Florida (Gainesville, FL)
Gary Black - Sarasota
Manatee Junior College (near Sarasota, FL)
Gail Cornthwait - Sarasota
Muriel Dickson - Sarasota
John Hamel - Sarasota
Juanita Metzler - Sarasota
Russell Robins - Sarasota
Skip Questionati - Sarasota
Kent Weaver - Sarasota
Vocational-Technical School (Sarasota, FL)
Lynn Black - Sarasota
Sandy Miller - Sarasota
Lee College (Cleveland, TN)
Janis McChesney - Waterloo
Ohio University (Athens, OH)
Scott Davis - Bryan

Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)
Dwight Skidmore - Gretna
Donna Borton - North Georgetown
Kris Kerr - Bryan
Ron Robarge - Bryan
Thomas Brown - Columbus
(Mrs.) Ruth Sunkle - Newark
Donald Leckey - Vinco
Don & Barb Graves - Gretna

Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH)
Karen Bleeks - Bryan
Rodney Bruot - Bryan
John Corwin - Bryan
(Mrs.) Connie Dixon - Bryan
Julie Slough - Bryan

Northwest Technical Institute (near Bryan, OH)
Karl Brace - Bryan
Jeff Brandon - Bryan
Aaron Cox - Bryan
Rodney Gilbert - Bryan
Sandra Haughn - Bryan

University of Toledo (Toledo, OH)
John Elsasser

Kent State University (Kent, OH)
Kathy Kerr - Bryan
Laura Wann - Bryan

Mt. Union College (Alliance, OH)
Jon Lindstrom - Louisville
Susan Staver - Louisville

Stark Technical College (N. Canton, OH)
Roger Waters - Massillon

Ashland College (Ashland, OH)
Ron Blake - North Georgetown
Joan Hamel - Sarasota
Sara Kieffer - Warsaw
Randy Smith - Jefferson
Paula Tinkel - Ft. Wayne Crestwood
Richard Craver - Pittsburgh
(Mrs.) Marcia Stoffer - Gretna
J. Paul Deardurff - Gretna
Tracy F. Wilt, Jr. - Washington, D.C.

Miami University (Oxford, OH)
Wade Michael - Gratis
Beth Miller - Louisville
Jane Tawney - Bryan
Greg Focht - Gratis

Miami University: Middletown Branch (Middletown, OH)
Terry Barnhart - Gratis
Janet Gilbert - West Alexandria
Susan Michael - Gratis
Robin Moodie - West Alexandria
Sharon Moodie - West Alexandria
Catherine Wiekel - West Alexandria

University of Cincinnati (Cincinnati, OH)
Terry Mansfield - Bryan
Wes Carter - Dayton Hillcrest
Mark Winfield - Dayton Hillcrest

University of Dayton (Dayton, OH)
David Deeter - Dayton Hillcrest
Doug Aldstadt - Dayton Hillcrest
Randy Johnson - Dayton Hillcrest

Sawyer College of Business (Dayton, OH)
Beth Gilmer - West Alexandria

Sinclair Community College (Dayton, OH)
Enid Schrader - Dayton Hillcrest

Bluffton College (Bluffton, OH)
Brian Clark - Gretna
Vianne Clark - Gretna
Dave Rusk - Bryan

Indiana Central College (Indianapolis, IN)
Jean Hildebrand - Teegarden

Bethel College (Mishawaka, IN)
Marsha Houghton - Elkhart First
(Mrs.) Sheryl Spurrier - Warsaw
Kathy Jo Horn - Ardmore
Jim Vandermark - Ardmore

Grace College (Winona Lake, IN)
Rod Yoder - Warsaw

Goshen College (Goshen, IN)
Jan Glenn - Milledgeville
Nancy Smoker - New Paris

South Bend Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (South Bend, IN)
Terri High - North Liberty
Becky Smith - Jefferson
Kathy Stoneburner - Teegarden

Huntington College (Huntington, IN)
Marcia Mangus - County Line

Fort Wayne Bible College (Ft. Wayne, IN)
Gregory Hooley - New Paris
Dan Gray - Bryan

Marion College (Marion, IN)
Vickie Barton - College Corner
Brenda Favorite - Roann
James Gearheart - College Corner

Manchester College (N. Manchester, IN)
Jeff Kellam - College Corner
Dan Keppel - Roann
Dave Keppel - Roann
Gene Rhoades - N. Manchester
Tim Sheets - Nappanee
Jan Swartz - New Paris
Nancy Tate - N. Manchester

Taylor University (Upland, IN)
Bruce Dodds - Bryan
Jo Ellen Dyson - Roann
Nyla Nye - Milledgeville
Wayne Grumbling - Waterloo

Hanover College (Hanover, IN)
Jennifer Schutz - N. Manchester

Ball State University (Muncie, IN)
Rose Ann Kropf - Jefferson
Pat Morrison - Oakville
Dayanne Ross - Oakville
Mike Smith - Oakville
Mike Dobbins - Warsaw
Patrick Bennett - Warsaw
Brent Bruot - Bryan
Brian Essenburg - Warsaw
Maureen Koontz - Nappanee
John Maust - Nappanee
John Miller - Nappanee
Mary Miller - College Corner
Fred Pries - College Corner
Terry Smith - Jefferson
Steve Stillson - Nappanee
Steve Troup - Ft. Wayne Crestwood
Robin Wenger - Nappanee
Barbara Barefoot - Oakville
Cristy Brunner - Oakville

Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)
Bill Bussard - Roann
Laura Ihnen - N. Manchester
Nick Miller - Teegarden
John Roose - Nappanee
Michael Roose - Nappanee
Jack Stillson - Nappanee



Indiana University Regional Extension (South Bend, IN)
John Robinson - Elkhart First
Karen Isenburg - County Line
Jerry Isenburg - County Line
Doug Smoker - New Paris
Gary Murray - County Line
Wendy Kring - Ardmore
(Mrs.) Debbie Parker - Ardmore

I.U./Purdue Regional Extension (Ft. Wayne, IN)
Mark Baker - N. Manchester

Vincennes College (Vincennes, IN)
Steve Hentgen - Roann

Indiana State University (Terre Haute, IN)
Evelyn King - County Line
Ralph King - County Line
Mark Roose - Nappanee

Purdue University (W. LaFayette, IN)
Gary Eberly - N. Manchester
Joe Frohlich - N. Manchester
Gary Hostetter - Nappanee
Keith Immel - N. Manchester
Charles Keim - N. Manchester
Ted & Lisa Little - N. Manchester
Cinda Ravenscroft - Elkhart First
Gary Whirledge - Jefferson
Alan Welch - N. Manchester
Bill Siewart - Oakville
Karen Wogoman - Jefferson
Carol Taylor - Teegarden

Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN)
Steve Kieffer - Warsaw

I.V. Tech. (near South Bend, IN)
Carol Ford - County Line

University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)
Karlyn Stanley - Dayton

Central Michigan University (Mt. Pleasant, MI)
Beth Gilbert - Bryan

Ferris State College (Big Rapids, MI)
Brenda Heckaman - Nappanee

Grace Bible College (Grand Rapids, MI)
Sharon Buckman - North Georgetown

Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL)
Melody Hofer - Sarasota

Freeport Memorial School of Nursing (Freeport, IL)
Peggy Dalacker - Lanark

Highland Community College
Karen King - Lanark
Debra Michael - Lanark
Nancy Travm - Lanark

Sauk Valley Junior College
Vali Bushman - Milledgeville
Kris Knapp - Milledgeville
Sheree Livengood - Milledgeville
Kim Millhouse - Milledgeville
Bob Black - Milledgeville

Iowa State University (Ames, IA)
Bob Lamb - Waterloo
Russell Stephens - Waterloo
Bill Priebe - Waterloo

Ellsworth College (Iowa Falls, IA)
Reese Miller - Waterloo

University of Northern Iowa (Cedar Falls, IA)
Diane Huff - Waterloo

Coe College (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Lyle Nesemeier - Milledgeville
Jackie Warfel - Milledgeville

Wichita State University (Wichita, KS)
Jack Wessels - Derby
Ken & Marie Vanderpool - Derby

University of Colorado (Boulder, CO)
Martha Hough - Linwood

Western College (Silver City, NM)
Larry Ladd - Warsaw

ARE THERE OTHER BRETHREN STUDENTS?

Are there post-high students not listed? To date rosters have been received from only 34 churches! If your church has not reported its college students, please send to the Board of Christian Education the names of each student plus school address, school attended, expected graduation date, and age. This information helps us maintain contact with your students during their training years and hopefully will help to retain them for future service in the Brethren Church.

These churches have reported. Is your church listed?

Ardmore
Bryan
Cameron
College Corner
Columbus
County Line
Dayton Hillcrest
Derby
Elkhart First
Ft. Wayne Crestwood
Gratis
Gretna
Jefferson
Lanark
Linwood
Louisville
Massillon
Milledgeville
Nappanee
Newark
New Paris
North Georgetown
North Liberty
North Manchester
Oakville
Pittsburgh
Roann
Sarasota
Teegarden
Vinco
Warsaw
Washington, D.C.
Waterloo
West Alexandria

WOMEN'S LAB



Vignette of a Veteran

The characteristics of a dedicated teacher are immediately apparent in Bessie Bowser, resident of **Brethren Care,** as one talks with her. Coming from a family of nine children—six boys and three girls—she began teaching in an eight-grade, one-room school immediately after graduating from high school and taking a proficiency examination. She continued this arduous routine for twenty-two years, after which she spent some years in further teaching at Lost Creek, Kentucky. Then she resumed her own training by enrolling at Berea College, later returning to Lost Creek, where she taught English and Algebra. "Teaching is so interesting and rewarding," she observes; "watching people as they learn new things."

One of her exciting experiences, she recalls with a smile, came when she and Carrie Stoffer, another teacher, were hunting nuts in the wooded hills around Lost Creek. Some rifle shots close at hand gave them the uneasy feeling that hunters were being a bit careless. But not until they returned to the school did they learn that the shots doubtless came from some local moonshiners who may have feared the teachers were "revenooers" and tried to discourage their explorations.

Bessie never married until she was 69 years old, but with a glow, she speaks of the happiness this marriage brought her. Now, at 84 years, she has been a widow for several years. She says she likes people who think, and she reflects this attitude in her own thoughtfulness.

Although she has been an avid reader in the past, because of failing eyesight, she is now limited to the reading others can do for her. As I enter her room each week, she literally bounces out of her chair to provide whatever she has been saving for the occasion. The Bible and religious literature are her favorites. Sometimes as she listens with closed eyes, one would think she was asleep; but a sudden interruption with, "Isn't that a beautiful thought?" or a relevant comment indicates that she is following and thinking deeply.

Bessie says of her Christian faith, "It was not a sudden conversion experience which I had; I simply learned to know the Lord better every day." She attends the Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland each week, where she seems to savor each moment of hearing the sermon and having fellowship with other Christian people. Her activity is somewhat limited now, especially physically; however, the faith and serenity of her life witness to the Christian spirit living within. She confesses that her greatest joys in life are helping others and belonging to Him. Indeed, just a conversation with this faithful Christian provides one a glimpse of a tranquil life in complete harmony with her Maker.—il

POETRY CORNER

BLESSINGS UNCEASING

I've asked myself a thousand times
Why God should send my way
More blessings than my cup can hold,
And richer, day by day.
I tell myself it couldn't be
For things that I have done,
Because I've failed so utterly
To be like Christ, His Son.

I only know that since the day
I first confessed my need
Of Christ, to save my soul from sin,
And bid His Spirit lead,
The blessings have been pouring out
In bountiful supply.
I know not why He does so much
For such a worm as I.

Norman McPherson

HOW PRICELESS GOOD NEIGHBORS ARE!

Now, who can place a value on
A neighbor good and true?
I'm very sure that I cannot,
And I've had quite a few.

Can you imagine how 'twould be
If neighbors didn't speak?
This sort of thing goes on, they say,
Where people never seek
To get acquainted with the folks
Who just moved in next door.
I wonder how they deem a life
Like this worth living for.

And some build fences, I am told,
In order to define
The place where "neighbors" can't set foot
Across the border line.
This is a childish way to act;
A selfish thing to do.
For what's a little bit of land
When all is said and through?

We need to live in harmony
With all our fellowmen;
To give and take as neighbors should,
And visit now and then.
Life is too short to live for self;
Eternity, too long.
Christ made the pattern, with His love,
And love can do no wrong.

Norman McPherson

March 1, 1974

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

a time when
Christians everywhere
gather together
to pray

"Loved, We Will Love," a Bible centered worship guide prepared by the National Association of Evangelicals, is available in booklet form for group participation in church and community services.

WORSHIP BOOKLET



MATERIALS PROVIDED WITHOUT CHARGE

Please send materials in quantity indicated

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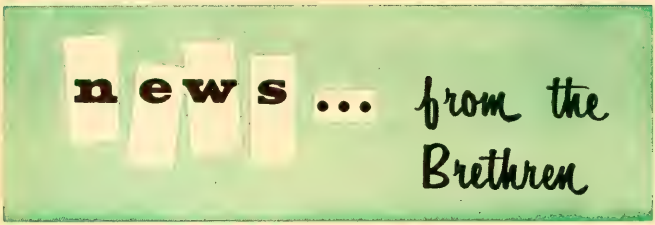
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CHURCH _____

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National Association of Evangelicals
Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois



Memorials

EICKHOFF

Mrs. Ervin Eickhoff, nee Alice Camblin, age 69, passed away Saturday, January 12, 1974 at the Falls City Community Hospital following a stroke. Services for Mrs. Eickhoff, a member of the Falls City Brethren Church, was held on Tuesday, January 15th, with the Rev. Elmer Keck, officiating. Mrs. Eickhoff is survived by her husband, four sons, four daughters, 30 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Interment was in the Silver Creek Cemetery.

* * *

TRITCH

Mr. James Tritch, a member of the First Brethren Church of Goshen, Indiana, passed away suddenly on Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 1973, at his home. Mr. Tritch had been a member of this church for over 40 years. He had served in about every office of the church, and had been a member of the Deacons Board for many years. He served as a Sunday school teacher for many, many years. Mr. Tritch is survived by his wife, Bessie; a daughter, Mrs. Jeanne Weldy of Flanagin, Illinois; and three grandchildren. Mr. Wier Tritch of Fremont, Ohio, and Tucson, Arizona, is a brother. Mrs. Jerry Flora of Ashland, Ohio, is a niece. His funeral was conducted at the First Brethren Church by the undersigned on Monday, November 26. Certainly our church will miss the labors of this Christian man.

Rev. Spencer Gentle

* * *

KLINGEL

Ralph F. Klingel, 85, a member of the Warsaw First Brethren Church, passed away November 26, 1973. He is survived by his widow, one son and three granddaughters. Funeral services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. Claude Stogsdill. Burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

* * *

GABLE

Florence Gable, 79, passed away January 11, 1974. Funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. Claude Stogsdill. Burial in Oakwood Cemetery. Survivors include a son and daughter, and several grandchildren.

PRICE

J. Benjamin Price, 60, of 108 N. Washington St., N. Liberty, Indiana, died at LaPorte Hospital. He is survived by his wife Beulah, a daughter, Mrs. Larry Hostetler of New Jersey, two stepdaughters, Mrs. Richard Anderson and Mrs. Russell Snodgrass; a brother, Jasper of Casa Grande, Arizona, two sisters, Mrs. Leslie Flora and Mrs. Earl Liggett. Funeral services held in funeral home by Rev. Stephen Cole. Cremation in the Riverside Crematory, South Bend.

* * *

ZABEL

Mrs. Hugh (Evelyn) Zabel passed away early the morning of January 5th of a heart attack at her home at the age of 62. She was a faithful member of the Waterloo First Brethren Church, of the W.M.S. and Kings' Daughters. She is survived by her husband, her father, one son Jack, and one sister and two brothers. Funeral services were held at the First Brethren Church on Tuesday, January 8th with Rev. Glenn Grumbling officiating. Burial was in Garden of Memories.

* * *

KYLE

Almeda Kyle, 86, a member of the Dutchtown Brethren Church, passed away January 2, 1974. Survived by two daughters and several grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Claude Stogsdill.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin King, Rt. 1, North Liberty, observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which was Dec. 17, 1973.

* * *

Bryon and Margaret Nixon will observe their 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 16, 1974. They have been long time members of the First Brethren Church of Oakville, Indiana.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Goshen, Indiana —
11 by baptism, 2 by letter

THE SEVEN BECAME 85

A Rock extravaganza was held at the Watkins Glen, New York, Grand Prix Race Track on July 28. About 600,000 youths turned the landscape into a sea of people. Seven of them set up four Scripture distribution stations and within an hour enlisted a total volunteer force of 85 people to help them share God's Word. The new recruits established five additional distribution stations. A working team of at least 60 persons continually moved among the crowd throughout the weekend. Approximately 80,000 Scriptures were distributed by these volunteers who at the start of the Festival numbered only seven.

from American Bible Society Record

THE FAIRLY INTELLIGENT FLY

Once a spider built a beautiful web in an old house. He kept it nice and clean and shiny so that flies would patronize it. The minute he got a "customer" he would clean up on him so the other flies would not get suspicious.

Then one day this fairly intelligent fly came buzzing by the clean spider web. Old man spider called out, "Come in and sit." But the fairly intelligent fly said, "No sir. I don't see other flies in your house, and I am not going in alone!"

Presently he saw on the floor below a large crowd of flies dancing around on a piece of brown paper. He was delighted! He was not afraid if lots of flies were doing it. So he came in for a landing.

But just before he landed, a bee zoomed by saying, "Don't land there, stupid! That is fly-paper!"

But the fairly intelligent fly shouted back, "Don't be silly. Those flies there are dancing. There's a big crowd there, Everybody's doing it. That many flies can't be wrong!"

So he came in for a landing, flapped down and his feet set. He was sure that he was safe, doing what so many other flies were doing. So he landed—and he got stuck! He wanted to be with the crowd more than anything else. But he was only fairly intelligent . . . or hardly that!

It describes people, too, doesn't it? Some of us want to be with the crowd so desperately that we end up in a mess. What does it profit a fly (or a person) if he escapes the spider web only to end up on the flypaper?"

from the Log of the Good Ship Grace





CHURCH NEWS

GOSHEN, INDIANA

It has been some time since a report has been in the **Brethren Evangelist** from the First Brethren Church of Goshen, therefore we wish to let you know that we are still serving God in this part of northern Indiana.

It has been two years since the present pastor received a call from the Goshen church to serve as pastor. This was a bit unusual in that I had been pastor of the church from 1955 to 1963, and had resigned from the church to become Editor of the **Brethren Evangelist** in which capacity I had served for several years. The church in Goshen had undergone some serious problems during this time, but we are able to say now that we are overcoming any past problems and disappointments!

The recent holidays brought to us some rewarding events. In November some eighty people banded together to do an intensive visitation program amidst the membership of the church, and in the community. The results of this program are found in new interest and in an increase in attendance in all services of the church. But most of all, there has been spiritual growth in the lives of those who did the visiting.

On the last two Sundays of 1973, nine people found their way to the cross of Christ and accepted Him as their personal Savior. There were several rededications made at the same time. On Sunday evening, January 6, eleven people were baptized by triune immersion. On the next Sunday morning, these eleven plus two others, were brought into membership of the church. Two others were received back into our membership after having been away for several years. This was truly a joyous day for our church!

Man-made rules tell us that pastors do not return to former pastorates, but such rules do not take into account the calling of the Holy Spirit in the lives of men. I am certain that God called me back to these people, and the relationship is beautiful. There is a sense of unity among us; there is Christian love manifested in our relationships; and there is a willingness to serve God above all. God will bless such relationships!

Some twenty-three of us from the church are looking forward to a tour of the Holy Land bebinning March 4 of this year. There will also be on the tour seven Brethren from other Brethren churches and eight from other denominations, making a total of thirty-eight in the group. We are certain that this trip will mean much to the spiritual growth of our congregation, and the fellowship will mean a great deal to those of us who will be making the tour of the holy places.

Continue to pray for us here in Goshen. We intend, with the help of God, to move forward in God's Kingdom!

Rev. Spencer Gentle
Pastor



NEW LEBANON, OHIO

On Sunday, January 27, an historic event in the history of the New Lebanon Church took place. It was the Installation Service for Peter E. Roussaki, new Minister of Music and Christian Education. This is the first time the New Lebanon Brethren have had two full time staff members. They feel this is a time for "Celebration." Praise the Lord!

On Sunday morning Dr. Joseph Shultz brought the message and assisted in the installation. After the morning service a carry-in-dinner was held in honor of the Roussakis. To surprise Peter and Phyllis a "Pound Shower" was given them. This included: sugar, flower, cake mixes, canned goods etc. A cart was placed at the bottom of the rear entrance steps in which these gifts of love were placed.

Pastor, Don Rowser

CHRISTMAS AT WAYNE HEIGHTS

The Brethren at the Wayne Heights Church have just experienced a number of blessings through the various services of the past Christmas season, and we would like to share some of these with our friends around the brotherhood.

On Sunday morning, December 23rd, the boys and girls of the Children's Department of the Sunday School came into the sanctuary to "decorate" the Christmas tree which had been placed on the platform. The previous week the children had been given beautifully decorated envelopes into which they were to put their Christmas offering for the King. These envelopes were hung on the tree by the children and their teachers by means of brightly colored ribbons. The children then sang several Christmas songs for the rest of the Sunday School. Having contacted Miss Becky Baker at Riverside Christian Training School relative to a specific project to which the offering could be applied—a project which the students themselves would enjoy—this offering was designated to purchase records for the students in the dormitory to play on their new record player. A total of approximately fifty dollars was presented for this missionary offering.



Centering around the theme, "The Characters of Christmas meet Christ" our Sunday evening Children's Christmas Program was one of the finest we have ever seen. Throughout the evening the large, colorful pages of the Christmas book were turned, calling attention to the Shepherds, the Wise Men, the Innkeeper, etc. The recitations, songs, exercises, Scripture readings, etc. fitted into the various page titles. All age groups of the Sunday School were used in this program, from the Cradle Roll through the senior high school class—and even a number by the adult choir. Mrs. Rennert Stevens, one of the very active and talented members of the Sunday School and church made all of the necessary "visuals" used in this presentation. In addition to the large "book" there was a flannelgraph board with a number of scenes, and many of the participating groups also had "visuals" to give added meaning to their recitations, etc. The entire program was strictly Bible-centered and called attention to the real message of Christmas. The photographs show the initial sequence of the pages in the spotlighted book. Other pages in the book following the depiction of the shepherds accepting Him picture; The Wise Men Expected Him; The Innkeeper Neglected Him; The King Rejected Him; and the final page—And You?



The page turners, shown in the pictures, are recent converts to Christ and additions to the Wayne Heights Church. The Kitzmiller twins—Bonnie on the left, and Betty on the right. (The twins, incidentally, celebrated their birthday anniversary on Christmas Day.)

The final "special" service of the Advent season was our Christmas Eve Service. Featuring the adult choir and their presentation of the cantata, "Kneel At The Manger," this service helped to prepare all who attended for the glorious day to follow. At the conclusion of the cantata a candle lighting service was entered into by everyone in attendance. The many poinsettas, the candlelight atmosphere throughout the entire evening gave a glorious feeling of warmth, light and beauty to the Christmas Eve Service. We "Praise the Lord" for the glorious opportunities for worship, for fellowship, for sharing, for loving which this past Christmas gave to all Christians.

With the beginning of the New Year the Wayne Heights Church has accepted as our "slogan" and as our goal in every endeavor, "To Serve Christ More in '74." We solicit the prayers of the brotherhood that His work might be promoted and enlarged in this corner of the vineyard.

World Religious News in Review

PASTOR PREDICTS DEATH OF INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH

BUFFALO, N.Y. (EP)—By the year 2000, "the institutional church as we know it will be dead," declared a Baptist minister here.

The Rev. Dr. Daniel E. Kolke, minister at Central Park Baptist Church, and a member of the University of Buffalo faculty, criticized the institutional church today as having seven symbolic walls which prevent the Christian Church from doing Christ's work on earth.

Among them are the wall of theology which prevents the release of the gospel to persons outside the church, and the wall of hardships, keeping the church from fighting against poverty, exploitation and dehumanization by industry.

Others are the moral wall, the wall of acceptance of the belief that the soul is good but the body is evil, the wall of nominalism revering Christ's name without obeying His commands, the wall of separation of the church from the community's needs, and the wall of miscarriage of missions.

Dr. Kolke makes the charges in his new book, The Church and Her Walls.

CONCORDIA SEMINARY BOARD WITHDRAWS 19 COURSES

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (EP)—The Board of Control of Concordia Seminary here convened in specially called meeting to deal with a backlog of items remaining from previous meetings.

Acting on a recommendation from the Board for Higher Education of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod that the two seminary boards should scrutinize all courses, the board withdrew 19 courses from the 1974-75 catalog pending further study. All of these courses are electives, most of them dealing with exegetical theology. Most of the meeting was devoted to specific discussion of course materials. In contrast to the November meeting, discussion throughout was low-keyed and calm.

Some time was devoted to the board's request in November that Seminary President John H. Tietjen explain in writing how he reconciles his position as seminary president under Synod policies with several of his recent public actions, such as his participation in the July faculty protest, his involvement in ELIM (Evangelical Lutherans in Mission), his permission of a week's absence from the campus by 15 professors who spoke at ELIM meetings throughout the country and a lack of faculty response to a convention resolution in which the church strongly criticized the doctrinal position of some faculty members. Dr. Tietjen briefly stated his position orally, and the board again asked Dr. Tietjen to confirm his position in writing before its next meeting.

IN MAO'S CHINA THE 'PILL' IS A TINY STRIP OF PAPER

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (EP)—In the People's Republic of China, the pill is actually a miniature postage stamp paper strip which women swallow daily to help the government fight the population growth.

According to Dr. Carl Djerassi, professor of chemistry at Stanford University, who is sometimes referred to as "the father of the pill," China has more women on oral contraceptives than any other country. He said somewhere between 10 and 15 million Chinese women were on the pill, representing 10 to 15 per cent of an estimated 100 million married women of reproductive age.

GLOBAL JEWISH POPULATION: 14,370,650

NEW YORK (EP)—The world Jewish population is estimated at 14,370,650, according to the American Jewish Year Book, whose 1973 edition has just been published. There are approximately 6,115,000 Jews in the U.S., more than in any other country.

These estimates were compiled by Leon Shapiro, Associate Professor of Russian and Soviet Jewish History at Rutgers University, who compiled the overseas demographic data, and Alvin Chenkin, Supervisor, Statistics Unit, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, who assembled the figures on the U.S.

After the United States, countries with the largest Jewish populations are: Soviet Union, 2,648,000; Israel, 2,723,000; France, 550,000; Argentina, 500,000; Great Britain, 410,000; and Canada, 305,000. Fifty-one per cent of world Jewry is located in North, Central and South America, 28 per cent in Europe, 19 per cent in Asia, 1.5 per cent in Africa, and 0.5 per cent in Australia and New Zealand.

In the United States, the Jewish proportion of the total resident population remains at 42.5 per cent.

COUPLE TRUST GOD, DELIVER BABY

SALEM, Ore. (EP)—A seven-pound son arrived at the home of Royce and Joanne Mosgrove, with only God in attendance. The help of the Heavenly Father was all the devout couple wanted.

"The Lord promised us in I Timothy 2:15 that 'she shall be saved in childbearing,'" explained Mr. Mosgrove, whose son Isaac Joel was born following a full-term medically unsupervised pregnancy. "There was no room for anything to go wrong."

To the couple, not members of any organized religious group, the procedure was "kind of like putting our faith on the line; either God is a hoax or He's not."

CHICAGO PRIEST BALKS AT WEDDING BECAUSE FAMILY SKIMPY ON DONATIONS

CHICAGO (EP)—A Roman Catolic priest here refused to sanctify the marriage of a GI and his Okinawan bride after pulling the file of the groom's parents he found they hadn't carried their share of the Church's financial load.

But Air Force Sgt. Stanley T. Godyn and his wife Mizue, here with their 10-month-old son, said another priest would tie the holy knot.

Marriage rules vary by country and religion, and according to the Rev. Stanley Dopak, they also vary by the dollars.

FIRST WHEATON PRAYER BREAKFAST HOSTED BY COUNTY OFFICIAL

WHEATON, Ill. (EP)—To present personal expressions of the Christian faith as they relate to the tasks and responsibilities of Christians and county government, a pre-Christmas breakfast was held here.

Politicians, businessmen, church leaders and two professional baseball players gathered for the meeting led by DuPage County Board Chairman Gerald Weeks.

Speaker for the meal was the Rev. Christopher Lyons, pastor of Wheaton Bible Church. He warned that we have "not so much a crisis in confidence" in America today but one in "leadership." He emphasized that even though the church must be kept separate from government, God's judgment is certain—both on the church and the government—if we fail to follow God's leadership.

PARK STREET CHURCH GROUP PAYS CITY 'TAXES'

BOSTON (EP)—A token payment of $100 towards taxes on Park Street Church has been paid to the city of Boston. The check came from The Grad Group, a fellowship of graduate students and young adults at the church.

"We have sent you this contribution from our missions' budget because we recognize the degree to which our church depends on the city for its very existence," the group wrote Mayor Kevin White in a letter published in INSIDE magazine.

"But beyond this," the letter said, "Boston has many poor who through their taxes are helping to pay for the benefits we enjoy. Christ our Lord counselled one rich man to sell what he had and give it to the poor. He must be saddened to see the tables turned. Through His Word we are told to care for the widows and orphans, the poor, the needy and the stranger. By not paying our fair share in taxes, we have attempted to place that responsibility on others. This token gift is therefore an evidence of our determination to obey Christ's will in all areas of our lives. He is Lord over our economic and political lives. He is concerned when we take advantage of the poor, or refuse to help the poor, through governmental structures. All of our decisions, and all of yours, are moral decisions made before Him, whether or not we recognize Him as Lord.

SKYLAB CREW FOUND SPIRITUAL LIFT IN FLIGHT

SPACE CENTER, Houston, Tex. (EP)—Skylab 3's astronauts felt changes of "almost a spiritual nature" in their views of themselves, or other humans and of the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe, they radioed to earth.

The changes in attitude came from orbiting the earth for 48 days and viewing the panorama of the globe continually, with the sun and the stars beyond.

Gerald P. Carr, William R. Pogue and Edward G. Gibson all agreed on the phenomenon.

The long space flight had given him a more "humanistic view toward other people and toward himself," Pogue declared.

"I now have a new orientation . . . of almost a spiritual nature," he added. "My attitude toward life and toward my family is going to change."

Carr said that people in highly technical work tend to "move along with blinders on."

"I think this mission is going to . . . increase my awareness . . . of what else is going on besides what I'm doing," he said.

The testimonials were reminiscent of James Irwin's declarations following Apollo 15's trip to the moon. Irwin said he felt the presence of God on the moon and has since founded "High-flight," an evangelistic association.

FTC ORDER SEEKS TO HALT 'PSYCHIC SURGERY'

WASHINGTON (EP)—The Federal Trade Commission has been granted a temporary court order to halt a faith healing business in which people with serious illnesses are being flown to the Philippines to be treated by spiritual "surgeons."

The decree states that three travel agencies in Seattle and San Francisco may no longer use the term "psychic" surgeon or any other phrase or symbol which indicates that an actual operation on the human body will take place.

The agency said substantial numbers of persons suffering from cancer and other serious illnesses have been traveling to the Philippines where faith healers, just by laying on of hands, claim to remove tumors from their bodies and otherwise heal illnesses. The thriving business, sometimes performed in waterfront hotels in Manila, has been in progress for several years.

The FTC has been given permission to deliver a written message to everyone currently signed up for one of the trips, advising them that "psychic surgery" is "not an actual surgical operation, no incision is made and diseased tissue is not removed from the human body."

There is no way FTC officials can stop people from leaving on the trips, once they have been advised of the situation.

The travel agencies listed in the court order, and in a separate complaint issued by the FTC, are Travel King, Inc.; Phil-Am Travel Agency, Inc., San Francisco and Seattle; and Gem Travel Service Inc., San Francisco.

'NOT A NATHAN,' BILLY GRAHAM DECLARES SCORING WATERGATE GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The idea that an invitation to speak at a White House worship service implies a kind of benediction on the administration is "ridiculous," Evangelist Billy Graham declared during a press conference here called by Christianity Today.

"Twenty years ago we called such thinking 'McCarthyism,' " Dr. Graham stated in a candid discussion of his association with President Nixon during the Watergate affair.

While agreeing that Watergate and its related events were illegal and unethical, Dr. Graham said he will go anywhere to preach the gospel, "whether to the Vatican, the Kremlin, or the White House," provided there are no strings attached.

The evangelist emphasized that he was "not a Nathan," that David was the leader of "the people of God," a situation far different from America's secularized society. He said his relationship with the Nixon administration was better compared with Paul's relationship with Caesar.

Did he regret stating publicly that he voted for Nixon?

"I am a Democrat," the evangelist said, "but I thought Mr. Nixon was the best qualified man to be President. . . . He and I had been personal friends for over twenty years."

Mr. Graham emphasized that the President has still not been found guilty, and may have thought Dean and Ehrlichman had indeed investigated and found nothing wrong in the Watergate charges. He said the President can still recover a great deal of lost credibility in his remaining three years, provided there is no new "bomb" to explode.

During the free discussion Mr. Graham stated: It is foolish to think the President had made him a tool to assure respectability in the eyes of the people since it has been so long since the evangelist had been invited to the White House. . . . He had suggested Senator Mark O. Hatfield as a possible running mate in 1968 but was not involved in the selection of a vice president. Mr. Nixon may have made serious errors in judgment, just as the evangelist said he himself had, and that it's better to show humility and say "I'm sorry" when one has made a mistake.

The evangelist suggested that some good may yet come out of the Watergate debacle. First, "I think we will reform the political process by which we elect our officials." Second: "I think people in public life will think twice before they do something wrong." Third: "I think the loose handling of thousands of dollars will be a thing of the past." Fourth: "I think there's going to be a look at the whole American system. I think we demand too much of our Presidents."

The absence of an absolue standard of right and wrong contributed to wrongdoing, Mr. Graham agreed. "We've been told by popular theologians for some years that morals are determined by the situation, and now we are reaping the bitter fruits of that teaching."

Each Christian citizen has one primary duty toward those in authority, and that is to pray for them, Mr. Graham stated. He said he would like to see the President attend once in a while the Senate and House prayer breakfasts.

"It is my prayer that all the events that have happened during the past few months will tend to deepen the religious convictions of the President," Mr. Graham stated in the exclusive Christianity Today article. "The agonies of the Civil War caused Lincoln to turn to God in a greater dependence than ever before. This tends to be true of most Presidents in periods of crisis."

BAPTIST COED DIES IN ARAB BOMBING OF JETLINER IN ROME

GREENBACK, Tenn. (EP)—A special kind of quiet joy—and what seemed to be a premonition of death—permeated the final few hours of life for Bonnie Presnell, one of 32 persons killed in an Arab fire bomb attack on a Pan American jetliner in Rome.

Bonnie, a 20-year-old sophomore at Hiwassee College, Madisonville, Tenn., and her cousin, Robyn Haggard, a 16-year-old junior at Harrison-Chilhowee Baptist Academy, Seymour, Tenn., were enroute from East Tennessee to spend the Christmas holidays with Robyn's parents in Saudi Arabia.

Robyn, burns covering about 35 per cent of her body, lies in critical condition in Santa Eugenia Hospital in Rome. The prognosis is "guarded" but Robyn "is expected to recover," reports indicate.

An unidentified passenger told the Presnells that Bonnie, in the hours before her death, appeared subdued and discussed the Bible and the fact that she had recently "rededicated her life to Jesus Christ and was happy to be alive." The girl added: "If I had to die today I would be ready." She said it more than once, the passenger reported.

8,500 TEENAGERS EXPECTED AT WAIKIKI GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

HONOLULU (EP)—The "Jesus Festival Special" is expected to attract 8,500 teenagers to Honolulu's Waikiki Shell in Kapiolani Park Sunday, January 20. The festival begins at 2:30 p.m.

Youth Crusades of America with Richard Shakarian is sponsoring the festival. It will feature Andrae Crouch and the Disciples (former soul music group), Barry McGuire (hit song writer of "Green Green"), and television's "Lulu" —Lulu Roman—of "Hee Haw."

"The Jesus Festival Special will no doubt be the largest youth rally of this kind ever held in Honolulu," Shakarian predicted, "because over 100 churches of many denominations are joining the effort to bring the festival to the forefront in Honolulu."

A businessman and father of two teenagers, Shakarian launched the Jesus Festivals Specials two years ago, "because I saw the spiritual drought, depression, hostility, apathy and the occult mainlining its way into our nation's youth," he said.

GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

I know not when He sends the word
That tells me fervent prayer is heard;
I know it cometh soon or late,
My part is but to pray and wait.
I know not if the blessing sought
Will come in just the guise I thought.
I leave all care with Him above,
Whose will is always one of love.

Source unknown

A MOMENT WITH HIM

We mutter and sputter,
We fume and we spurt;
We mumble and grumble,
Our feelings get hurt;
We can't understand things,
Our vision grows dim,
When all that we need is
A moment with Him.

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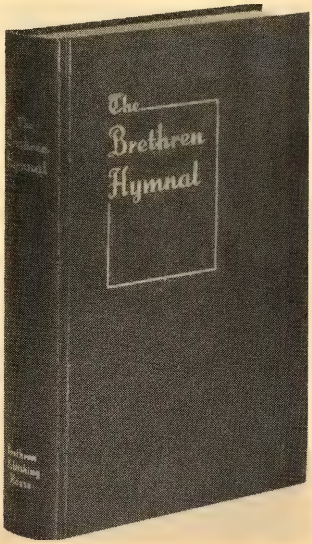
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The Brethren
EVANGELIST

BRETHREN WORLD MISSIONS



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NOTES and COMMENTS



MARCHES ON!

FIFTY YEARS AGO: A little bit of rhyme published in the church paper back in 1924 might still be in order for our present day:

"Keep your face with sunshine lit,
Laugh a bit;
Gloomy shadows oft will flit
If you have the wit and grit
Just to laugh a little bit."

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: Slogan for Sunday School attendance at the Oakville Brethren was "150 by 50" (25 by 75?)

TEN YEARS AGO: Officers of the Central District Woman's Missionary Society were: Mrs. Harlan Hollewell, President, Milledgeville, Illinois; Mrs. Virginia Law, Vice President, Lanark, Illinois; Mrs. Abe Glessner, Secretary-Treasurer, Waterloo, Iowa; S.M.M. Patroness, Mrs. Helen McDonald, Cerro Gordo, Illinois and Mrs. Marijane DeVeny, Assistant S.M.M. Patroness, Waterloo, Iowa.

By the Way

HILLS OR PILLS?

Reflecting upon a memorable journey last fall through the Shenandoah Valley and looking up toward the hills and mountains of Virginia I recall reading in the 121st Psalm: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

This particular verse in turn brings to my recollection what an English writer suggested about ten years ago after the tragedy of approximately 8,000 infants being born deformed because of the use of certain sleeping pills by the mother during the gestation period. He suggested that the time-honored verse of Psalm 121 should be revised to read: "I will lift up mine eyes to the PILLS," rather than to the everlasting hills of God.

How true! Pills, not hills, especially the everlasting hills, are where many today are looking for strength and release in our day. This is an era of "jets" and "space age," so what value can be found in a Biblical poem that was written over two thousand years ago?

The trend in television commercials seems to indicate that this present age, jet and space age or not, has more problems than any age in previous history. Certainly, many of our Biblical characters had their share of problems. Let us take Moses for an example. Probably no other leader had any more difficulty than did he as he tried to lead a group of double-minded grumblers through the wilderness. Yet, when the going "got tough" he found strength beyond his own in the everlasting hills—where he met his Lord. Moses' secret was hills, not pills.

Let us consider David as another example. He was a mighty military man who had all the personnel and arsenal of a tremendous army behind him to be a most powerful leader. Yet, his strength too, was in the everlasting hills of Zion, where he established God's own city. Often, very often, he too lifted up his eyes to the hills.

Centuries of sorrow followed David, for God's people drifted into the ways and byways of evil. Instead of their eyes being focused upon eternal hills, they too sought strength in pills. Pills in the form of other gods; military might; political and economic shenanigans. The medicinal results for the curing of their ailments were the same as before, but this did not seem to alter the fact that these types of pills were most important in their lives.

When a disease goes through a nation unchecked and left to run its course in a most contagious manner the inevitable happens and so it happened here. Judgment came, and in faraway Babylon, the eyes of the exiled once more were turned upward toward the sacred hills of Zion hundreds of miles away across the desert. "By the rivers of Babylon" a weeping people recovered their perspective on life. Once more the hills became more important than the pills.

Then, and then only, did the faithful remnant return from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild Zion's sacred courts. Midst danger, toil and suffering the people of Israel sang their immortal songs of faith. Psalms of the spirit which should remind the Aspirin, Bufferin and Anacin age that the truth of God is eternal and does not wear off in a few hours.

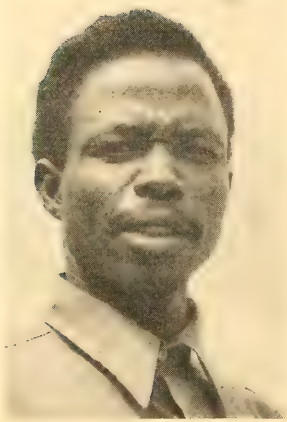
Speaking in the quiet language of faith, the Psalms of His Holy Word call men to take his eyes off the medical shelves in the super-markets and transfer his gaze upward toward the hills which God created out of nothing "When the morning stars sang together."

Hills, everlasting hills, not hills of pills are the crying need of all men today. Especially today do all men, particularly those on "Capitol Hill," need to fix their eyes upon Calvary, the hill where Our Heavenly Father gave Himself for all mankind. (G.S.)



MISSIONARY NEWS

LITERACY NEWS FROM NIGERIA



John Guli, translator & literacy co-ordinator

The following is taken from a newsletter by Roger Mohrlang, the Wycliffe translator who has been working with John Guli and the Higi translation of the New Testament from the beginning. John, who visited many of our Brethren Churches last year, is the literacy co-ordinator for the Higi churches and the one who has done the translation into Higi, working with Roger Mohrland.

". . . by the time you get this letter, we should have completed the final typing of the entire Higi New Testament! Unfortunately, that's not the end; I'm now left with the painful job of proofreading the more than 1,000 pages in detail, to make sure that every jot and tittle is in order before sending it on its way to England for printing. . . . I figure the manuscript represents about ten thousand hours at this point, so I protect it with my life, believe me!

"In early January . . . John Guli and I will be giving a short course to all the evangelists in preparation for beginning literacy classes in all the churches this dry season. For the next five months, John and I will be working together with the church, trying to establish the whole Higi literacy program on a firm basis. Most of the time we'll have our noses to the grindstone training men and producing additional literacy materials in the language.

"With the abundance of food in our affluent society, it's difficult to appreciate the plight of the millions of desperate and hungry people just to the north of us, affected by the tragic drought all along the edge of the Sahara. The early end of the rains this year have brought the drought right down into the northern states of Nigeria, leaving countless miles of unmatured stalks of Guinea Corn withered, with no hope of any harvest. Moslems, Christians, and pagans are affected alike. The few remaining crops are now endangered by blight and a plague of grasshoppers that has struck North Eastern State. Many are dying from lack of food, and millions are affected in Nigeria alone."

We appreciate Roger sharing with us about conditions and progress in this part of Nigeria and all will want to remember in prayer those members of the church in Nigeria and especially those working with the translation of the New Testament which can bring spiritual life to so many.

GROWTH IN INDIA



Pictured above is Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham, the General Secretary of the Missionary Board, during his recent administrative visit to India along with Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar and Nirmala, Brethren missionaries; ordained pastors, evangelists, Bible Institute students, workers, and orphans.

YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CAN HAVE **FUN** and **LEARN** at the **SAME TIME** About BRETHREN WORLD MISSIONS!

The Brethren World Missions Activities Kit includes:
—Teacher's Guide
—Activity sheets in individual pupil books
—Resource cards with quotations from letters of missionaries now serving
—Maps and pictures of our own Brethren Missionaries and their places of service

Value of the Kit:
"We learn what we **do**," said a famous educator.
There is much **doing** possible in this kit.

Possible uses:
—Church School Classes,
—Evening Youth Groups,
—Mid-week Youth Groups.

Order the Kit from the Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805
Prices: $3.80 for Teacher's Guide and 4 sets of Resource Cards.
$.30 for each pupil book.

Prepared by Brethren House for the
Missionary Board of the Brethren Church

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF COLOMBIA

by Kenneth Solomon



Kenneth Solomon family arriving in Medellin, Colombia

With an expression of recognition that not all first impressions are valid and dependable, I share this information for what it might be worth.

Climate "City of Eternal Springtime"

My family and I arrived in this city of Medellin on the 23rd of November, supposedly at the close of their "winter" season. (The name given to the months when it usually rains frequently) but as it turned out we have had rain for a part of every one of the 36 days but about eight. So this has added to the problems of house-hunting, running from store to store seeking the best price for furniture, getting two younger children to school some five miles away—all without a car. We are thankful for availability of taxis and buses just four blocks from home and for umbrellas. But this has been an abnormally wet and prolonged winter of rain which has caused great damage to crops and a great financial loss to the country. Normally we can expect an annual average rainfall of 48 inches (well distributed throughout the year and an average temperature of 23 degrees Centigrade.)

THE CITY OF MEDELLIN

Population: nearly 2,000,000
Industrial Capital of Colombia

In the days that we have been here we have had ample opportunity to verify the superficial impression of our brief four-day visit in June. Truly, by day or by night, Medellin is a beautiful city. Its location in a valley only seven miles wide and 18 miles long adds to its loveliness since many of the nearly two million inhabitants have had to construct on the gentle slopes of the scenic and ever near Andean mountains. Both from the hotel and from our newly rented home, the view of the sparkling city at night is quite exciting to behold. Our home happens to be one that is located in a suburb high on the mountain slope and thus affords a lovely view of the center of town down the valley.

Now with the municipality having put up some 250,000 colored light bulbs (of the 40 watt size) as Christmas decorations in the parks and outlining some special buildings such as the central Catholic Cathedral, the city is even more gorgeous than any we have seen.

This central and most important of cities was founded in 1616 at an altitude of 4,757 feet above sea level which gives it the most agreeable climate in the country. Due to the accelerated growth of its textile and manufacturing industries it has become the Industrial Capital of Colombia.

THE PEOPLE

The first impression, after leaving the unnatural environment of the hotel, was of a people aloof, unfriendly and unresponsive. We would politely say "Buenos Dias" and they would just stare at us without saying a word. This made them even seem discourteous and caused us to long for "Good-old Argentina" where the people were so friendly and where we were loved and respected by a large number of precious friends and brothers in the Lord. They also spoke so rapidly and with a different intonation of the Spanish (to say nothing of the many terms that are different here) that it made us quite frustrated and embarrassed when we couldn't understand them and they couldn't understand completely what we said.

Then there were the (what seemed to us) unfriendly, thoughtless acts of the bus drivers. To take the children to school we must use the services of two buses, the first one stopping about four blocks from home. It bothered us to be almost to the bus and have him take off without us. We didn't know then that he had a very tight time schedule and couldn't wait for anyone. And, also, there is usually another one comes along within five or ten minutes. But, on occasion we would have to stand another 20 minutes when the next one would be off schedule. It was even worse when it happened to be raining hard and there was no shelter at the bus stops. Then, too, there were times we would give the sign but they wouldn't stop for us. This was most irritating, especially since our umbrellas were not keeping us entirely dry and we had been waiting a long, long time. What then seemed a very unfriendly, discourteous act was later explained by the fact that this particular bus is not permitted by law to have more than around six persons standing up in the aisles and so being filled to legal capacity the drivers are obligated to pass one up and not stop.

Other aggravating experiences were such as when depending upon the taxis and having them

not be able to find the address requested. How can we ever hope to learn our way around if the city system of house and street numbering was so complicated that not even the taxi drivers can learn it adequately. Later we were able to tell the drivers each turn to make and, of course, there no doubt had been some who purposely took advantage of these "ignorant foreigners" and took them extra blocks, pretending not to find the place, so as to charge more. This, of course, would never happen in a large U.S. city. Or would it? I guess not all taxi drivers are Christian there either.

SHOPPING FOR GROCERIES

We suffered another "culture shock" when we went to what was recommended as their "Super" Market.

In the fruit line we didn't even recognize many of them so of course didn't know their names. Then we found out that what we thought we **did** recognize as lemons and limes turned out to be the opposite. The limes were the size of lemons and the lemons small and green like limes. In the vegetable line we had the same frustrating experience—and the meat!! None of it looked fresh. To tell about it sounds mild but the experiencing of it was not.

Needless to say it took us three hours to do the shopping that normally takes one hour in the States. Then, upon leaving, we found we had so much we couldn't take it on a crowded bus so we had to look for a taxi. It would seem there are always many looking for customers when you **don't** need them and then very few or all occupied when you **do** need them.



Taxi in front of Solomon residence with neighboring houses connected to the right.

CONCLUSION

By now, we have had "second" impressions that showed us that "first" impressions are often false and unreliable, or at best, only partly true.

As to the climate, the abnormally long and wet winter season seems to at last be surrendering to the demands of summer and we are having less rain and more sunshine. And, in spite of the many days of rain the humidity count wasn't as high as in Argentina so there was little dampness in the air within our house or garage. Jan could hang her hand-washed clothing to get it dry inside. (We are hoping to have the washer and dryer within another two weeks.)

As to the city, we are now able to get about without the frustration of getting lost. We now know where to shop for nearly everything and how to get there and back by bus. Some of the drivers are becoming more friendly for they now recognize us. We also were impressed by the friendliness of the people on the buses when we had to stand up they always offer to hold the children's books or lunch pail and any packages or umbrella, so we can hold on with both hands. (Quite necessary because of the suicidal way they drive in order to complete their designated rounds in a very limited time schedule.)

Even in our "Barrio" (suburb) we are finding the people much more responsive and friendly and even the apparent resentment of the five neighbor girls caused by their girl friend moving out and our moving in, has disappeared and they now respond to our greetings and conversation.

We have even found another "Super Market" in a shopping center which is clean and well-organized and much like what we are accustomed to. The meat looks good and is not as expensvie as in the United States. We can go on a small bus that passes just four blocks from home and drops us off at the door. There we can find everything we need besides food and usually a taxi if and when we need one.

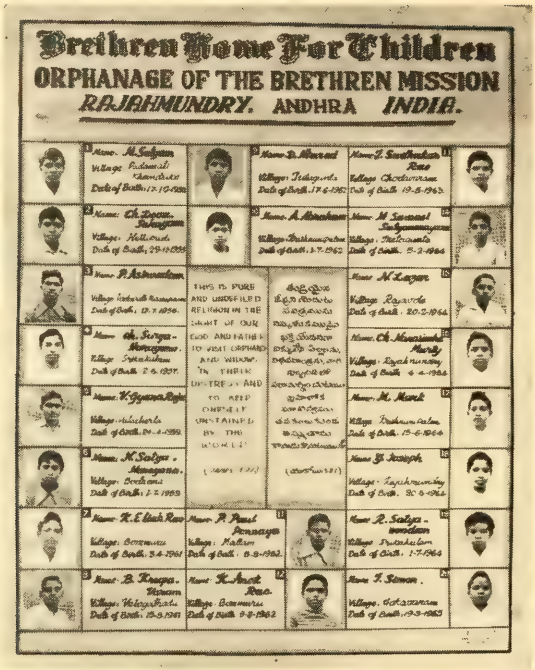
We are preparing tracts, Bibles and New Testaments to begin a house-to-house evangelistic effort in our suburb. We have already had some interesting experiences witnessing and giving out tracts to porters, bellboys, waiters, taxi and bus drivers and our neighborhood small grocery store owner and son.

We appreciate so very much the prayers of the Brethren which have seen us through the most difficult and most frustrating period of the first month. We trust you will continue to be faithful in your participation in this beginning of a new Brethren missionary work.

We encourage your corresponding with the Solomons. Remember Airforms are 15¢ and can be secured at your local Post Office. Airmail is 17¢ for each ½ ounce.

Their new address is

Kenneth L. Solomon
Apartado Aereo 055171
Medellin, Colombia
South America



Many have sponsored the children in the Brethren Home in India. Some have offered support on a regular monthly basis and are assigned to a particular young person. From time to time due to personal circumstances some regular support is not forthcoming and it has been at these times that others have made single contributions to keep support at the required level for underwriting the expenses of the children.

We list herewith those who have made contributions during the past three years toward orphan support in particular. The offerings from some churches designated for orphans or orphanage have been used toward the initial expenses of providing the orphanage with equipment and furnishings and we will not attempt to list each of these churches.

John R. Fry
Donovan Garber
Adult Class, Pittsburgh
Walter Strope
Builder's Class, Masontown
Ronald L. Wyann
Carrie Stoffer Missionary Society
Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Funk
Connie Jamison
James W. Miller
Willing Workers, Berlin
Wayne Heights Church
Hagerstown Church
Berean S.S. Class, Louisville
B.Y.C., Brush Valley
Robert E. Geiger
Guiding Light Class, Pleasant View
Dayton Church, Pathfinders Class
Altruist S.S. Class, Nappanee
Lucetta Hibbs
Brethren Heirs, St. James
W.M.S., Levittown
Robert E. Miller
Ashland Theological Seminary
Turah Locke Class, Maurertown
Papago Park Church

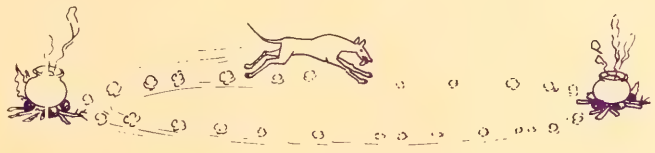
"THE DOWNFALL OF THE NOBLEST DOG"

—sayings from the Lardin Gabas

Text and drawings by John Grimley

material for Bura proverbs by Ferne Baldwin

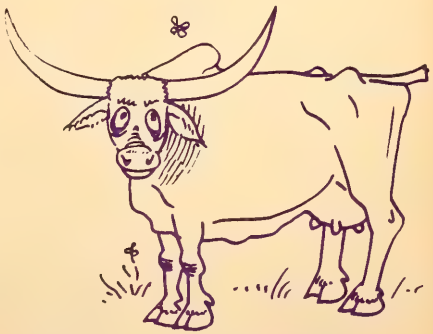
Lenti mithlu Ndalna katsilar kya gathers up the wisdom of Jesus' words, "A servant cannot have two masters," as well as the contemporary warning not "to spread ourselves too thin" as we dash back and forth from one responsibility to another. The Margi people of Nigeria put it this way: "Two cooking fires are the downfall of the noblest dog!"



The wisdom of the ages embodied in folk tales and proverbs is often expressed through the antics and the imagined human characteristics of animals. In a list of twenty-nine Margi proverbs fifteen refer to such animals as the dog, baboon, hyena, fish, wild cat, mouse, and lizard. You've heard about the bull in the china shop. The Margi people say, Ba bulam wu far uhi—the baboon in the corn field; or again, with additional overtones, Gwar mompolingu wu dlimar ku — the hyena in the goat house! This refers not only to the person who travels roughshod over the finer things and the feelings of others, but also refers to the person who after getting to where he wants to go (into the goat house), panics because of the restrictions and goes beserk, breaking out through the "walls" to his ruin, and without even one "goat!"

Many proverbs pass on wisdom at the expense of laughing at ourselves or at another who is brutish and stupid, as in the case of the hyena, or at an outcast, perhaps a person of another tribe. It is the "trader from a neighboring tribe who is looking for his donkey," while riding on him!—the lady looking for her glasses? And it is "the lazy neighbor who, having been surfeited by overeating, sets his corn bin afire!"

Some of life's truths are taught by proverbs like "The home that increases will decrease"—pride goes before a fall; and by "Sit on the low anthill, sit on the high anthill"—both the common man and the king have ants in their pants! And by "The fish trusts in water, but it is water that cooks him"—the very circumstances upon which we depend may in due course bring about our downfall.



God chases the flies from the stump-tailed cow

(*continued on next page*)

To be prepared is "to make a shield from a soft, fresh buffalo hide **before** the day of warfare," and "to cut a goat skin for carrying the baby on Mother's back **before** the day of birth." Life's dilemmas are expressed with "escaping between the horns and the ears"—from between the devil and the deep blue sea! And life's tight places, by "the corn between the grinding stones."

A proverb that points up hypocrisy: "Skinning the lizard to sell its skin is one with eating its flesh." The tendency to cause our own trouble: "Throw an object into the water and fish it out with one's own foot," and "Jump into the water without knowing its depth or what is in it!" This also carries with it the thought of researching a proposition before going headlong into it. Hospitality is proverbial for Africa, but it may be taken advantage of: "The mouse taking refuge in a clump of grass unburned by a passing fire eats and leaves"—the person who moves in on a relative to eat and sleep for months and then leaves just before the hoeing season!



The Bura people of a neighboring river valley express God's providential care with "God chases the flies from the stump-tailed cow." **Kir duku akita kirambwa wa** reminds the Bura person inclined to rush ahead on his own that assisting cooperation is usually needed, for "one head cannot carry a house roof" from the place where it has been fabricated on the ground to the top of the house wall. Two—or ten—heads are better than one! Yet the necessity to make one's own decision and bear one's own troubles is expressed like this: "It won't give your neighbor a headache"—your neighbor may be curious, but your trouble will not bother him enough to cause him to give you help; therefore, make your own decisions and carry your own responsibilities. Here is another excellent proverb from northeast Nigeria: "If fire lights on your neighbor's beard, sprinkle water on your own." What do you think that one means?

THANK YOU

by K. Vijaya Kumar

I praise the Lord for keeping me safe and being with me during the last two years. I believe that He will continue to be with me until His Second Coming.

I am thankful to the Loree Brethren Church as it has been giving me a full-scholarship through the Missionary Board of The Brethren Church here in the United States. I thank the individuals, the Seminary, and the Churches for helping me. I really appreciate the concern and love of our brethren towards me. I thank the Administrative Staff and members of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church for giving their time in dealing with my concerns.

During the last two years I have learned many things at the Seminary and the Lord has enriched me with Spiritual knowledge. I am looking forward to the day when I will return to India and serve the Lord Jesus Christ and our Brethren Church. Before I leave for India I would like to become acquainted with many more of our brethren in the United States. I need your prayers for my stay here and for my future ministry in India.



K. Vijaya Kumar, missionary candidate

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



THOUGHTS IN THE SHADE

On a warm day recently, as only Florida can provide in January, I was sitting in the shade, contemplating life. I found myself listing the blessings I have found at Brethren House. From the days in the hospital three years ago, when I wondered about my future, I have come a long way, baby!

My list of blessings had to begin with the Lersches. I am grateful to be included as a member of their family and enjoy the friendship we share. In addition to that I have found myself on a team of committed workers for the Lord. Our goal, together, is to find effective ways of serving, using the talents and abilities we have been given. There is wordless joy in working together with those in whom you find a common bond in Christ.

As I thought about the children who come through our doors I realized what a unique privilege it is to be allowed to touch these young innocent lives. They come out of all sorts of homes and yet when they come here they each receive the portion of God's love that we feel for them. I saw myself again as simply an instrument, a vessel to be filled and used by God to touch these children. In such an awareness, of course, is the immediate feeling of being inadequate to the task you are called to. But I know that if I do my best that God will continually refill me and strengthen me. Our current theme is Psalm 46:1—"God is our refuge and strength." It is a difficult concept for the kids to grasp and I find it hard for me to articulate what I want to say but I have indeed been renewed in His strength.

When I was in the hospital convalescing I remember praying that God would send me to just the right place where He wanted me. Well, He did and it couldn't be better suited to me than a glove. I live and work under the same roof which eliminates transportation problems and everything is within these walls so that I can accomplish the job I have been called to do.

The tasks I have to complete are rewarding, boring, tedious, fun, dull, complex, simple—in all an ongoing list of things that keep me interested and involved, most of all challenged and rewarded. There is satisfaction in the work and in the accomplishment of a job well done when I do my best.

I am still learning how to be used. I am still growing and gaining insights into what God wants to do with my life, and sometimes I have to learn painfully and tearfully. But I continue to pray that I will be open and sensitive to God's leading and He very beautifully does just that.

I find myself wanting to share these things with the Brethren people because many of you have played a part in my life to bring me to this point. I well remember the many gifts of love that have come to my family through the years. Your prayer support and acts of kindness have given me a sense of God's love and have illustrated vividly for me how God uses His people in love to accomplish His purposes. It is out of that kind of background and with the solid foundation of love from my family that I am able to share with others.

It is because you have supported me and, through the Brethren Missions, Brethren House that I was able to list my blessings. For you and for this privilege of service I am grateful. Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gifts!

Bonnie

LEARNING CENTER SLIDES and TAPED NARRATION (23 min.)—$2.50 for Rental

We have prepared a slide and taped narration presentation describing primarily the 1973 General Conference Children's Learning Center and discussing the basic Learning Center concepts at work there. We've included some practical suggestions for getting a Learning Center started for those of you interested in such a venture. We have designed these materials to be used both for general information and Teacher Training. If you are interested in using the slides in your church we would be glad to share this item with you. **Be sure to give a showing date and an alternate date when ordering.**

Order from: BRETHREN HOUSE
6301-56th Ave., N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33709

SIGNAL LIGHT'S STORIES FOR MARCH

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE
MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

A PROMISE



Hannah was sad. So sad that tears ran down her cheeks as she prayed one day in the temple.

The minister came to her and said softly, "Wipe away your tears, Hannaah. God will hear your prayer and answer it."

Hannah looked at the minister and gave him a little smile. "Thank you," she said. "I believe He will."

Hannah had been sad because she and her husband didn't have any children. She had been praying for a baby boy. She promised God if He would send her a son she would give the child back to Him to serve Him.

Now she went home smiling. God would answer her prayer. She knew He would give her a son.

It was about a year later that a baby boy was born to Hannah and her husband. They named him Samuel.

How Hannah loved her son! She bathed him and fed him and cuddled him.

He grew quickly as babies seem to do. One day he was walking and talking. As Hannah looked at him she said to herself, "It's time for me to keep my promise to God."

Hannah washed Samuel's clothes and folded them carefully. She bathed him and dressed him in his best shirt. Then she took him by the hand and carrying his clothes in her other arm they started to the temple.

As they walked along Hannah talked to Samuel. "You remember I told you, Samuel, how God answered my prayer and sent you to us. I promised God you would always serve Him. Now it is time for you to go to live in the temple with our kind minister Eli. He will help you to learn to serve God. Daddy and I love you and will visit you often."

When they reached the temple Eli lifted Samuel in his arms. "I'm glad to have a good helper like you, Samuel," he said.

Hannah kissed Samuel and walked slowly home.

She did visit him often. She smiled happily when she saw him lighting the candles, opening the big temple doors and reading the Bible. Her son was learning to serve God well.

"Thank You, God, for Samuel," she said.

—Based on I Samuel 1:9-28

Memory Scripture: Psalm 100:2

A PARTY

"Jose," said Mrs. Salvo one Saturday, "I want to help Rev. and Mrs. Jones tell our friends about Jesus."

"So do I!" said Jose. "What can we do!"

"Do you think your friends would like to come here to play today?" asked Mother. "We could make it a party. Then while the children are eating Rev. and Mrs. Jones could talk with them."

"That's a great idea!" answered Jose. "I'll go ask them now." He hurried out to find his friends.

Mrs. Salvo went down the street to tell Rev. and Mrs. Jones about her idea.

After she had told them Mrs. Jones said, "I'll go home with you to help you fix the food."

"I'll go, too," said Jack, "and help Jose get the games ready."

"I'll get our puppets and music," said Rev. Jones. "Then I'll come over too."

The women and Jack went to the Salvo home.

Mrs. Salvo and Mrs. Jones went to the kitchen. They got the things ready to make empanadas[1] and hot chocolate for the party.

Jack went to the yard where Jose was planning games.

"Who's coming?" he asked.

"Carlos and Gonzales and Roberto," answered Jose. "Maria and Isabella are coming too. They will be here in about half an hour."

"What shall we play?" Jose asked next.

"Let's play tejo,"[2] suggested Jose. "I have some caps in the house."

The boys worked quickly burying the caps in a mound of dirt. When the children arrived a short time later everything was ready.

"You pitch first," Jose told Maria.

Her stone landed with a soft thud on the dirt.

Isabella went next. Her stone hit a small cap and made a little bang.

Each of the boys took a turn. As the children continued to play the air was filled with noise.

Rev. Jones had been watching the children. As the game ended he said, "Well, Gonzales, you made the most noise. You are the winner."

"Now, it's time to eat," said Mrs. Salvo.

"Hurrah!" shouted the children.

"Oooh, look at the empanadas!" said Isabella.

"They smell good," declared Carlos.

As the children ate Rev. Jones introduced his puppet friends. They helped him tell the story of Jesus, God's Son.

"Tell us more, please," asked the children when he had finished.

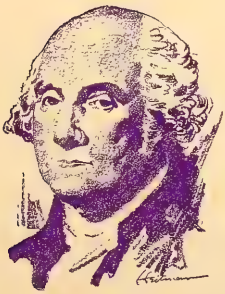
"I'll tell you more tomorrow at our house," promised Rev. Jones. "Come at 10:00. Bring your parents and friends."

"We'll be there," answered the children. "Thank you for the party, Mrs. Salvo, We'll see you tomorrow Jack and Jose!"

Rev. and Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Salvo were smiling happily as the children left. But Jack and Jose turned somersaults in the grass and laughed outloud.

[1] See the November Signal Light's story for a description of empanadas.

[2] Pronounced TAY-hoe. See the October Signal Light's story for a description of this game.



The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR MARCH

THE LORD IS RISEN!

What does the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ prove? The resurrection of Christ from among the dead is the assurance which the Father has given to all men of His perfect satisfaction with the sacrifice of Christ for our sins (Acts 17:31).

It proves the truthfulness of Christ's predictions. Again and again, in speaking to His disciples about His death, He assured them that He would rise again. (Mark 8:31; 9:31; 10:34).

It also proves that the apostles were speaking the truth when they testified of that resurrection. Not till after the resurrection did they fully understand what the Lord was talking about when He said He would rise again. But afterwards they risked their lives as they went from place to place preaching "Jesus and the resurrection" (Acts 17:18).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ proves that faith in Him is not in vain. It gives reality to the hope that the bodies of believers who die in the Lord shall also be resurrected. The body "is sown (buried) a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." "And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" (1 Corinthians 15:44, 49).

The literal, bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is a glorious part of the gospel of Christ. And that gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."

The Lord made ten appearances to His own after His resurrection, The first was to Mary Magdalene at the sepulcher when He called her personally by name!

The second appearance was to a group of women. They had come to the sepulcher and the angels had told them to go to the disciples and to Peter and tell them He was risen. While they were on this errand, the Lord appeared unto them. They held Him by the feet and worshipped Him.

The third appearance was to Peter who had denied Him; and His loving care for Peter should be an encouragement to any backslider!

The fourth appearance was to Cleopas and his companion on their way to Emmaus. How touching the story as the Lord drew near and caused their heart to burn!

Then these two returned to Jerusalem and joined the eleven disciples to tell them the Lord had risen and as they spake, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them and said: "Peace be unto you!"

A week later He made his sixth appearance. It was to Thomas whose devotion was won as he said: "My Lord and my God!"

The seventh appearance was to the fishermen on the shores of Galilee where the Lord prepared food for them.

But the eighth appearance was on a mountain in Galilee where Jesus had told them to meet Him. The news spread and there 500 brethren saw Him at once (Matthew 28:16, 1 Corinthians 15:6).

Then He appeared to the Apostle James (1 Corinthians 15:7).

And lastly, the apostles beheld Him as he was taken up and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

How much have all missed who have not allowed the Lord Jesus to appear to them!

If we will receive Him by faith, He will show us the marks of the wounds which He suffered for us; and one day He will appear again in person to take us to be with Him forever. His resurrection spells victory for us.

NAE'S 32nd ANNUAL CONVENTION SET FOR BOSTON, APRIL 23-25

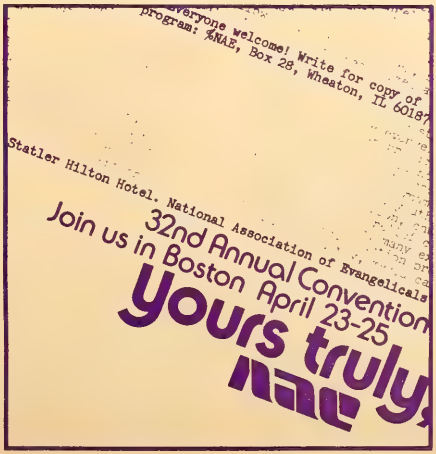
WHEATON, ILL. — "Workers Together with God" is the theme of the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals, scheduled for the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Boston, April 23-25.

The strategic gathering of evangelical leaders from across the country marks the first time in NAE history that the annual convention has been held in New England. Representatives of some 30,000 churches from 60 denominations, independent bodies and numerous evangelical organizations will meet in devotional, workshop and business sessions.

Variations of the theme will be the focus of major addresses during the three-day convention. Speakers include Congressman John Anderson of Illinois; Dr. Myron F. Boyd, bishop of the Free Methodist Church and president of NAE; the Rev. John Huffman, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, Pa.; the Rev. Gordon MacDonald, pastor of Grace Chapel, Lexington, Mass.; Dr. Stephen Olford, minister-at-large of Encounter Ministries, Inc.; Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, general director of NAE and international secretary of the World Evangelical Fellowship; and Dr. Warren Webster, director of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Missions Society.

In seminar and workshop sessions, NAE's commissions and affiliates will provide practical help from recognized authorities in the areas of evangelism, higher education, missions, church extension, evangelical action, lawmen's work, social concern, radio and television, chaplaincy, world relief and Christian education.

Sixty-five exhibitors from all phases of Christian ministry and service will be on hand to give delegates a first-hand look at new materials and developments.





ROOM FOR ENCOURAGEMENT IN WASHINGTON

A special report on NAE'S Leadership Briefing at the nation's capital

CAPSULE COMMENTS AND CONTENT FROM KEY BRIEFING SPEAKERS

WHEATON, Ill.—If some 25 key governmental leaders in Washington, D.C. know anything about it, there's room for much encouragement, despite Watergate. This word was prevalent at the annual Washington Leadership Briefing, sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals at the Capital, January 14-18.

Most speakers, either in formal presentations or in response to questions, indicated that the vast majority of governmental leaders in Washington were honest and hard working, doing the best they could to preserve basic integrity—in spite of the complexities of government service.

Encouragement also comes from realizing that God is still in control, according to speakers at the week-long meeting. Charles Colson, one-time "tough guy" of the inner circle of Nixon aides, and a recent Christian convert, perhaps expressed it best. He told the group that his prayer for public officials is that they "would understand their own limitations and learn reliance upon God." He also indicated that having a spiritual perspective would probably have changed his view of what "the good of the people" was—from emphasis on the state to a recognition of the individual, as it is in God's kingdom. He expressed hope that out of the painful experience of Watergate, "instead of putting our faith in a collection of humans, we in America should turn again and reaffirm our faith in God." Dr. Betsy Anker-Johnson, assistant secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology, said that God expects those He has placed in key leadership positions to be pioneers—to follow Him, rather than to look for patterns to follow." Head of nine agencies, including the U.S. Patent Office and National Bureau of Standards, she told of finding the reality of Christ as a student and of His leading in her career in dramatic ways.

Time and again those attending the Briefing heard of the growing number of top governmental leaders and Congressmen meeting regularly in small groups for prayer and Bible study. Examples included the report of 16 generals and admirals meeting weekly at 6:30 a.m. in the Pentagon for this purpose—and a regular prayer breakfast at the White House.

Other key evangelicals briefing the group on the inner workings of Federal government included: George D. Thomas, former HEW personnel director; Robert C. Andringa, minority staff director of the House Education and Labor Committee; John W. Brabner-Smith, dean of the International School of Law; Under Secretary of Labor, Richard F. Schubert; Admiral Robert L. Baughan and John B. Johnson, and General Lawrence H. Williams of the Department of Defense; John C. Broger, director of information at the Pentagon; Calvin D. Linton, dean of Arts and Sciences, George Washington University; and Skylab pilot Jack R. Lousma. There was also a special briefing from Supreme Court Justice William H. Rehnquist, and a panel presentation from three members of the Washington press corps.

The annual briefing conference has been conducted for pastors, lay people and Christian organizations for nearly 20 years by NAE's Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. in an effort to provide practical insight into the complexities of government. The Rev. Gordon Bacon, NAE national field director, said that this year's Briefing was indicative of "a new vitality of interest in the aspects of government affecting evan-

gelicals." Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, NAE general director, and Floyd Robertson, executive assistant of the Public Affairs Office, plan and conduct the Washington Briefing each year.

George Thomas, former personnel manager for the Secretary, HEW, listed the nature of the times as key to governmental problems: great expectations + oversimplified approaches + national priorities in conflict = frustration, factionalism and inevitable power struggle. "All government is not dishonest or corrupt. The problems come, not in areas of right vs. wrong, but right vs. right." He said a big need was for leaders who will lead and followers who will follow.

Robert C. Andringa, minority staff director, House Education and Labor Committee, sees as much envy, power struggle and fight for prestige in all elements of society as on Capitol Hill. He said this is not the time for evangelicals to be self-righteous. The Legislative Branch is handicapped by lack of staff and resources and overproliferation of committees. Only 19 of 1,000 bills introduced in committee become law. Congress is dependent upon interest groups for their specific knowledge, and are open for input from evangelical groups.

R. Burnett Thompson, administrative assistant for Congressman Whitehurst of Virginia, indicated a crying need for a relationship between evangelicals and their Congressmen that is different (not always critical and demanding, but caring, loving, and praying). Watergate teaches us that we can't live with a relative morality. He indicated that God's guarantee of success is not imprinted on any system, but rather that success is measured by the imprint of the Gospel on that system.

Jack R. Lousma, pilot of the Sky-lab 3 mission (59 days in space), said that the contrast betweeen the real and unreal in space is difficult to describe. He quoted extensively from Psalms on the Lord's "wisdom and understanding formed in earth and space," and described God as designer of both the solar system and the inner-space of the atom. He reported that NASA received four million letters in favor of the 1968 reading of Genesis 1 in space vs. "about 30" against. "To the degree we see God at work is that degree to which we let Him into our daily lives. He's always available and wants us to draw closer to Him."

Charles W. Colson, 1969-1973 special counsel to the President, traced details leading to his conversion through the influence of a close friend and the "Ego" chapter of **Mere Christianity** by C. S. Lewis. He stated his certainty that the next six months will see the country divided over the impeachment issue, and sees a possible moral rebirth as people turn to God rather than man for solutions. "Governmental leaders are human, no different than anyone else . . . Americans want instant solutions and will be more and more frustrated by placing hope in men who are human, rather than God." If we cannot ask for divine leadership, we are "just one more group of people," he indicated.

Col. Arthur G. Dewey, now at the Pentagon and former director of the Commission of White House Fellows, said that God is not dependent upon our designs, but asks that we learn self-denial; to step out of the picture to let Christ in; to avoid the "go along to get along" syndrome; and the courage to step out of the mainstream by faith. He said that the new birth really works and is working in Washington.

Lee Bandy, member of the Washington press corps representing South Carolina newspapers, stressed the important responsibility of the press corps to watch and report on votes and activities of Congressmen. "There is no place for advocacy journalism on the front pages—facts and figures should be provided for the reader to draw his own conclusions. . . . At worst, the news media can be destructive," he said.

Forrest Boyd, White House correspondent for the Mutual Broadcasting Company, admitted to problems of reporting by the press but said it has a responsibility to inform the public on what elected officials are doing. Concerning Watergate, he said that members of the press were told lies and untruths for months, so they have a "certain right to remain skeptical." The media must be careful not to go too far, but stick to the truth. He related truth in reporting to "truth that makes us free." (NOTE: Speakers Bandy, Boyd and Bill Willoughby, religion editor of the **Washington Star News,** all agreed that the next few months would see strategic changes in the system of government and moral quality of leadership.)

John C. Broger, director of the Office of Information, Department of Defense, noted the current "opportunity" for reaching people where they are. He reported that 50-60 top Pentagon policymakers met last year for dialogue with the Rev. Billy Graham. He informed the conference of a new program of radio spots and newspaper ads successfully being used through the Chaplaincy and Armed Services media to present the relevance of the Bible to modern life.

Calvin D. Linton, dean of Arts and Sciences, George Washington University, spoke on the crises of meaning and the dehumanizing of language. He said the government's "authorized prefabricated wordstrip" becomes a defense against futility. Erosion in writing begins when there ceases to be that "anguished search for the right word." Non-writing occurs under the pressure to write, whether or not there is anything to say. By crippling language, we cripple action, he said.

John Bradner-Smith, dean of the International School of Law in Washington, spoke on the evolution of law from law based upon biblical morality and God to law based upon man (common morality) to law based upon the state. He urged a return to genuine jurisprudence (God's law as the basis of law). Historically, he pointed out, the great teachers of jurisprudence were theologians. He sees a renewed call for a "shared morality" in opposition to the current scene of no fixed standard of morality. The original purpose of law was to carry out God's law, he asserted. Now, in the philosophy of "all men created equal," there is too much emphasis on "equal" and not enough on "created."

SISTERHOOD

by Sherry Barnhart



I'm really surprised that I have not written to you before on one of my favorite subjects. MUSIC!! That word has so many meanings and so many divisions. Each time that you say it you may be thinking of different types or styles.

Have you ever explored into some of the different kinds of music? Why not take a meeting and become music detectives? First you could assign each girl to bring along a record or sheet music or the words to a song from a specific area to the meeting. For example, one girl could bring an example of rock, another of classical, another of a ballad or gospel, or contemporary religious or a hymn etc. Then have her sing it or play it or read it or whatever she wishes as long as the rest of the girls hear it. After each girl presents her piece, have the group discuss it. Find out—if she likes it, what it says to her and the rest of the girls, if they like it, what type of music it is, who does it speak to, was it written for a specific purpose, how you could use it in the church, and other questions.

Think about if your group or your church is in a rut musically. Do you hear the same type of music every Sunday or every Sisterhood meeting? Do you always sing the same choruses? Experiment and look around for some new kinds of music. Ask at a church bookstore or ask your choir director or pianist to help you to find some new kinds of music. Try some different kinds. Kick the Habit. Have fun making music.



It's the time of year again for thinking about where you Seniors are going to school next year. If you are considering Ashland College, I would like to give you some information that could prove important. The National Sisterhood Organization offers a scholarship to one Sisterhood girl who will be attending Ashland College in the fall of 1974. To find out more information fill in this blank and mail it to me.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CHURCH _____

PASTOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS

SCHOOL ADVISOR'S NAME AND ADDRESS

(SCHOOL) _____

Sherry

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NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE



Elton Whitted



Myron Kem

ASHLAND, Ohio — Elton Whitted, Technical Manager, Rubber Products of The Faultless Rubber Company, has been elected chairman of the Ashland College Board of Trustees at the board meeting on the campus this week.

Whitted succeeds Myron Kem of Dayton who served as head of the 54 member group for 27 years.

At its reorganizational meeting the board changed the title of its leader from president to chairman and created the post of President Emeritus to which Kem was named. Kem, an alumnus of Ashland College whose father George served the board from 1927 to 1943, was cited for his leadership since his election to his father's position in 1943. The father-son team represents 47 years of continuous service.

Other newly elected officers are Thomas Stoffer of Canton, vice president; Stephen Gilbert of Toledo, secretary; and Rev. Paul Steiner of Lanark, Ill., assistant secretary.

Gilbert replaces Harvey Amstutz of Smithville who has served as secretary of the board for 36 continuous years. He will remain a member of the board.

Eighteen members were elected to three-year terms on the board.

New members for the first time are Rev. James R. Black of Milledgeville, Ill., Dr. Alois F. Dvorak of Columbus, Robert Kropf of Goshen, Ind. and Alan Schmiedt of Manteca, Cal. These members will attend their first board meeting in August.

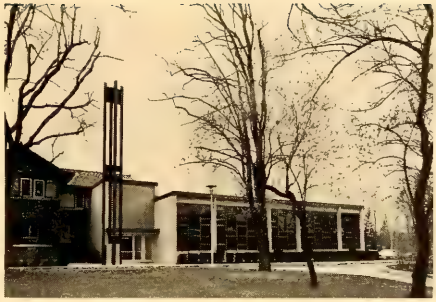
Members-at-large elected to the board in August who attended their first meeting this week were Lou Groza and James Preston of Cleveland.

The new board chairman was graduated from Ashland College in 1936 and was the recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award in 1966. He has represented the Ohio District on the board since 1955 and was named to the executive committee in 1972.

Whitted, who lives at 15 Lauretta Ave., was married to Margery Burns, who died in April 1973. They are the parents of three daughters.

Mr. Whitted is also currently serving as Vice President of The Brethren Publishing Company; Trustee of the Ohio District for The National Laymen's Organization and editor of The Brethren Layman section of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST.

He holds membership in The First Brethren Church (Park Street) in Ashland, Ohio and serves on the Deacon Board and as chairman of the Finance Committee.



ASHLAND, Ohio — At the January meeting of the Ashland College Board of Trustees this week fee increases were approved in college board rates, housing rates for the college and theological seminary and tuition fees for the seminary, President Glenn L. Clayton reported.

The increases take into account the rising costs of food and housing, according to the president, who anticipates that the housing operation will pay for itself.

Other increases become necessary with the rising costs of services.

"Rising costs are now at a point where we ought to make various functions of the school as nearly self-supporting as possible and the educational function cost per student should be kept at a minimum," the president said.

"I am confident that by making certain budgetary adjustments, we can hold tuition costs at the same figure. Tuition would not be as susceptible to inflationary trends as, for instance, the food bill would be.

"With a stationary or declining student body enrollment, I have a feeling that we will be able to adjust personnel enough that we will be able to offer other services we want to offer without an increase in tuition," Dr. Clayton said.

He pointed out that the budget continues to be an important item. The 1973-74 budget seems to be in balance but this will depend upon $500,000 in contributions—an amount equal to that raised in 1972-73. Contributions are being received at about the same rate as last year, he said.

The 1974-75 budget is still under study, the president reported.

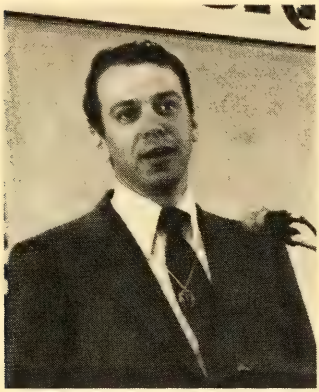
Dr. Joseph Shultz, vice president for the seminary, presented an encouraging report to the board of expanded seminary enrollment.



Moderator's Manna

SURVEY

YOUR MODERATOR WANTS TO KNOW



Please check **only one choice** for each question. Choose the one that best suggests your attitude and belief. Thank You.

Moderator Paul Steiner

1. The Brethren Church is talking about
 ____ A. Their problems.
 ____ B. Their power.
 ____ C. Their pocketbook.
2. The Brethren pastors are talking about
 ____ A. Their problems.
 ____ B. Their power.
 ____ C. Their pocketbook.
3. The successful pastors you know are
 ____ A. Lazy
 ____ B. Work beyond their limit.
 ____ C. Work to capacity.
4. The dying Churches are
 ____ A. Without a pastor.
 ____ B. Striving among themselves.
 ____ C. Not willing to step out with the boldness of Christ.
5. Your Church pays
 ____ A. Too little salary.
 ____ B. Too much salary.
 ____ C. Adequate salary.
6. Local Churches are
 ____ A. Willing to share with others.
 ____ B. Keep to themselves.
 ____ C. Encourage a loving-free spirit among the Brotherhood.
7. Local Churches
 ____ A. Feel a part of the District.
 ____ B. Act as if the District does not exist.
 ____ C. Encourage District unity and activity.
8. District Conferences
 ____ A. Feel a part of the Denomination.
 ____ B. Act on their own wishes.
 ____ C. Feel neglected by the Denomination.
 ____ D. Encourage communication between the local Church and General Conference.
9. Your Church believes
 ____ A. Ashland controls the Church.
 ____ B. They are small and of little value to the Greater Church.
 ____ C. The General Conference does listen and speak to their needs.
10. Concerning General Conference: Would you prefer
 ____ A. To have General Conference in another city, state or District each year.
 ____ B. To hold General Conference in Ashland annually and every two or three years have a Spiritual Impact Conference (3 or 4 days with no business) in one of the larger Churches or Conference Center.
 ____ C. Have General Conference in Ashland for three years then on the fourth have a Spiritual Impact Conference by invitation of Districts.
11. Is Adult Christian Education in the Local Church
 ____ A. Dying.
 ____ B. Exploring new topics.
 ____ C. Remaining with Brethren International lessons.
 ____ D. Content to be left alone and as is.
12. General Conference should spend more time
 ____ A. In longer business sessions.
 ____ B. In mixing up the program.
 ____ C. In shorter business sessions.
 ____ D. In small groups.
13. General Conference should
 ____ A. Be shortened to Tuesday to Friday night.
 ____ B. Begin on Sunday and conclude on Friday.
 ____ C. Continue as being planned by Executive Committee.
 ____ D. Other _____
14. What is the most exciting event in your parish
 ____ A. Sunday Church School.
 ____ B. Sunday Morning Worship.
 ____ C. Bible Study.
 ____ D. Youth Meetings.
 ____ E. Sunday Evening Worship.

15. What group is neglected in your Church
___ A. Children.
___ B. Youth (Specify: __Jr. High __High School __College Age).
___ C. Young married couples.
___ D. Middle age people.
___ E. Golden agers.

16. This attitude is of prime concern for the Brethren Church
___ A. Follow the records of historical events.
___ B. Follow the teachings of Alexander Mack.
___ C. Follow the teachings of the Holy scriptures.

17. The Brethren Church believes that
___ A. Biblical doctrines are a set pattern and can never be changed.
___ B. Biblical doctrines are open to new discoveries as they are tested through study.
___ C. Biblical doctrines are complete in the writings of C. F. Yoder's "God's Means of Grace."

18. The Brethren believe the Holy Scriptures are
___ A. God's inspired word.
___ B. Man's writings of God's plan.
___ C. A master piece of good literature.

19. The Brethren Church believes of prime consideration is the thought that
___ A. Alexander Mack established the true Church in 1708.
___ B. Jesus Christ established the true Church.
___ C. The Apostle Peter established the true Church.

20. The Brethren Church believes that
___ A. The Revised Standard Version is the most accurate text.
___ B. The King James is the official version of the Brethren Church.
___ C. All versions can be studied in the light of the Hebrew and Greek texts.
___ D. The New Living Bible is the most accurate text available.

21. Your Brethren Congregation believes that
___ A. Pastors should move every four years.
___ B. Pastors should never move unless asked by their Church.
___ C. Pastors should seek to move only when called by God.
___ D. Pastors should seek the bigger and better Churches.

22. The Brethren Church believes that
___ A. Congregations should not be larger than three hundred members.
___ B. Congregations should never grow large enough to employ two full-time ministers.
___ C. Congregations should remain small to retain purity.
___ D. Congregations should avoid openness because it brings about doctrinal change.

23. The Brethren Church is
___ A. Growing spiritually each year.
___ B. Slowly dying because there is a lack of lay commitment.
___ C. Progressing and will soon blossom.
___ D. There is no hope of growth.

24. The Brethren Church is
___ A. Adequately preparing sufficient men for the Brethren ministry.
___ B. In need of more concern from laity to encourage qualified men for the Brethren ministry.
___ C. In need of Pastors who will foster a desirable spirit and to encourage young men for the ministry.

25. The Brethren Church is
___ A. Adequately involved in world mission.
___ B. Poorly represented around the world.
___ C. Slow to open new mission fields because of the lack of financial support.
___ D. Slow to open new mission fields because we lack vision and men.

26. The Brethren Church needs
___ A. More Home Mission Churches.
___ B. Less Home Mission Churches.
___ C. To Study more carefully before they begin a new Home Mission venture.

27. The Brethren Church should
___ A. Leave Home Mission Churches to the leadership of the District Conference.
___ B. Have the approval and support of the National Mission Board before the work can begin.
___ C. Have less Home Mission Churches, but give greater support to get them out of debt and to call God's man and meet his financial needs.
___ D. Establish new Churches, call God's man, and pay the bill.

28. The Brethren Church should
___ A. Explore the possibility of merging with kindred Denominations.
___ B. Under no circumstances consider merging with another Denomination.
___ C. Explore the possibility of working and sharing in ventures of faith.

29. I am
___ A. Satisfied with Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary.
___ B. Satisfied with Ashland College but not satisfied with Ashland Theological Seminary.
___ C. Satisfied with Ashland Theological Seminary but not satisfied with Ashland College.
___ D. Not satisfied with either Ashland College or Ashland Theological Seminary.

(Question 30 is optional to all who wish to share with the the 1974 Moderator.)

30. I want to make this personal expression regarding the Brethren Church as I see it. (Please limit your expression to no more than one page for the purpose of this survey. Thank you.)



CHURCH NEWS

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

WAYNE HEIGHTS SUNDAY SCHOOL OBSERVES AWARDS DAY

One of the annual "special days" at the Wayne Heights Brethren Church is "Awards Day" in the Sunday School. On this day recognition is given to those Sunday School members who have met the attendance requirements for the past year. On Sunday morning, January 20th, Awards Day was held during the Sunday School hour, with Brother John Schlegel, superintendent, in charge. The Wayne Heights Sunday School presents pins and bars to those pupils who, during the past year, have been present at least fifty Sundays out of the year. Also, to those pupils who have been present **every** Sunday of the year, either a first year Robert Raikes Certificate is presented, or a seal to be attached to the certificate is given to the individual. The accompanying photo shows the group who were honored at the Awards Day Service recently. Back Row: Jack Warren 3 year pin and Certificate; John Schildt 17 year pin and 3rd year seal; John Schlegel 9 year pin and 2nd year seal; Rennert Stevens 1 year pin. Second Row: Patricia Barnes 1 year pin and Certificate; Lorinda Schildt 3 year pin; Judy Stevens 5 year pin and Certificate; Third Row: Mary Laughlin 15 year pin and second year seal; Janet Anderson 3 year pin and Certificate; Delores Kline 2 year pin and 2nd year seal; Mary Ellen Bates 10 year pin and 3rd year seal; Samuel Anderson 9 year pin and Certificate; Mickey Sachs 11th year pin; Fourth Row: Lena Hammond 1 year pin; Kimberly Kline 2 year pin and 2nd year seal; Vera Laughlin 1 year pin and Certificate; Jay Stevens 3 year pin; Mike Stevens 3 year pin and Certificate; Grace Pfoutz 5 year pin and Certificate. Front Row: Pam Kline 2 year pin and 2nd year seal; Billy Barnes 1 year pin and Certificate; Beverly Kline 1 year pin and Certificate; Shelly Kline 2 year pin and 2nd year seal.

One of the highlights of the presentation of attendance awards was a "family affair." Receiving either certificates or seals for not missing a single Sunday for either one or two years were Mrs. Delores Kline, her five daughters, Patricia Barnes, Kimberly, Pam, Beverly and Shelley, and her grandson Billy Barnes.



Another, and unexpected, award was made by Brother Schlegel to Miss Vera Laughlin. The Sunday School recognized Sister Laughlin for her many years of teaching in the Brethren Church—approximately fifty-two! On behalf of the Sunday School Sister Laughlin was presented a beautiful book of devotional poems, writings, and other inspiring thoughts.

It is hoped that at Awards Sunday in 1975 that all of these, plus others, will be back at the front of the sanctuary to receive honors for their faithfulness throughout 1974.

Pastor Henry Bates



VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA

Approximately a little over three years ago a project to see if a church might be established in an area on the north side of the San Francisco Bay was undertaken. This project was spearheaded by Rev. Milton Robinson and begun in the city of Vallejo, California, a city with a population of about 75,000.

Acting on a recommendation of the Northern California District Mission Board Rev. Robinson began this work in his home. Every home in the neighborhood was visited with the three California

Churches assisting in this effort through the cooperation of forty-eight members of these churches.

The attendance at the first announced service was not very encouraging but after receiving information about a community building being available to hold services in the attendance increased gradually.

In addition to the initial support given by the three churches in the California district in providing personnel to canvas the neighborhood, the three churches provided chairs for the Sunday School; a pulpit supplied by the Lathrop Church and a piano and mimeograph machine loaned by Rev. Buck Garrett, pastor of the Lathrop Church.

A Women's Missionary Society group is in the planning stage of organization by Mrs. Robinson which will be most helpful in providing an outreach to acquaint many people in the area with the Brethren Church and its teachings.

Rev. Robinson's daughter, Kay has been instrumental in getting some teen-agers interested in the work and in attending services. This has been a real blessing as it resulted in having a choir organized.

A radio broadcast entitled, THE BRETHREN HOUR has been started by Rev. Robinson. Hopefully this radio ministry will provide another avenue of outreach for the work in Vallejo.

Thus far, this group has been able to obtain their own Sunday School material; purchase a piano enabling them to be able to return the one loaned to them and finance their radio program.

Praise the Lord for His blessings and guidance in this new work of the Brethren. Prayer support is asked of the entire membership of the Brotherhood.

(This report is taken from a newsletter from Rev. Milton Robinson.)

THE "WISDOM OF SOLOMON AT SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Rev. George Solomon, former General Conference Moderator and presently Chairman of the Central Council and Pastor of our home mission Brethren Church in Derby, Kansas, was the evangelist for a "Wonderful Words of Life" campaign at the Sarasota First Brethren Church January 20-25.

The spiritual results of the meeting were five first time confessions and three rededications. Over 50 young people attended a "Sharing" and "Rap" session in the Educational Building during a Friday night "coke" fellowship. The evangelist was also guest speaker at the Meadowood Christian Academy and to the Women's Prayer "Coffee" at the church. He also attended a J-O-Y Class meeting at which their new teacher Mr. John Crawford was installed. During the meeting, each night was designated as a special night for attendance. Sunday School Classes: Homebuilders, J-O-Y, and Fellowship were attendance committees on their nights; and a featured "Family Night" as well as a "Youth Night" were highlighted during the six day revival. . . .

Gospel singing was an exciting part of the service with Rev. Jim Larnard, song leader and Sarasota Youth for Christ Director and Mrs. Jim Larnard, Pianist. Special music by the Larnards was provided each evening. Other special music included the Chancel Choir under the direction of Mrs. J. D. Hamel, the Eternity Singers under the direction of Mrs. Eugene Robbins, the Jet Cadets with Kathy Gray, vocal solos by Mrs. Nelson Yoder and Kathy Gray, flute solo by Janet Hamel, and a Men's Quartet—Russ Yoder, Nelson Yoder, Russell Robbins, and John Hamel. Organists were Curtis Stauffer and Debbie Sansing.

A lovely prayer chapel was provided by the Deacon Board in the cottage under the direction of Chairman of the Board Mr. Walter Davis.

Ministerial guests during the services were Rev. Fred Vanator, Rev. Clarence Stewart, Rev. Phil Lersch, Rev. Russell Gordon, Evangelist Rev. Bill Ross, Rev. Jim Larnard, and Missionary Board President Rev. Woodrow Immel.

The highest attendance of 508 was at the morning worship service; with an average of 197 for the seven services. Splendid attendance, excellent interest, enthusiastic spiritual singing, and prayerful support by the Brethren were outstanding in every service.

At each service Evangelist Solomon fascinated the children with his Children's Stories and will especially be remembered for many years to come for his portrayal of the "Tator family."

The week before our meeting Pastor Hamel was the chairman for a community David Wilkerson Youth Crusade where over 10,000 people attended a three day campaign in the Robarts Arena in Sarasota and over 900 made decisions at the altar.

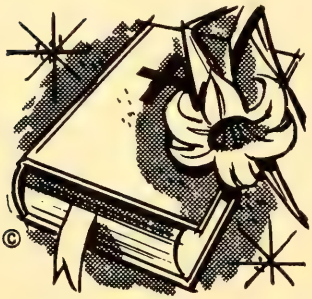
The Sunday following the evangelistic services with Rev. Solomon, sixteen new members were baptized by triune immersion and received into the membership of Sarasota First Brethren by the laying on of hands and the right hand of fellowship. Rev. Russell Gordon baptized three new members into the Bradenton Brethren Church on the same day. Rev. Gordon was installed as the pastor of the Bradenton Brethren Church Sunday morning January 20, 1974. Rev. Clarence Stewart, pastor emeritus of the Sarasota First Brethren Church and the Nappanee Brethren Church, and a life member of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, presided at the service.

What a time for Revival. Truly we are living in the last days. In the words of Chas. G. Finney, "A revival is neither a miracle nor an accident. It is the inevitable result of God's people meeting God's conditions." These are great days for Revival and every Brethren Church is urged to make these days of "aggressive evangelism" for Souls!" People today are willing to listen! Thank God for Revival!

—Sarasota, Florida First Brethren Church

news ... from the Brethren

Memorials



RORABAUGH

Mr. Robert Rorobaugh, 78, passed away December 17, 1973. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary Jane Mackall Rorabaugh and four sisters. Survived by these sisters and brothers; Grace Evans, Ebensburg, Lorena Brendle, Johnstown; Harry, Mundys Corner; Daniel, Vinco; and Samuel, Portage. Active member of Vinco Brethren Church where services were conducted by Pastor Rev. C. William Cole. Interment Forest Lawn Cemetery.

* * *

MACKALL

Mrs. Lucy Mackall, 87, went to be with her Lord, June 24, 1973. She was a member of Vinco Brethren Church, of which she was Senior Deaconess. She is survived by her husband, Walter S. Mackall, one daughter, Mrs. Carl Smith, and one son, Chester; both of Vinco. Death breaks a marriage of 70 years as of Dec. 19, 1972. Funeral services were held from Vinco Brethren Church with Rev. C. William Cole and Rev. Henry Bates officiating. Interment in Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

* * *

MACKALL

Mr. Sherman E. Mackall, 77, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, passed away June 29, 1973. He is survived by his widow, Grace; three sisters, Mrs. Burley Rose, Mrs. Earl Miller, and Mrs. Daniel Rorabaugh, all of Vinco. Mr. Mackall was a member of Vinco Brethren Church where services were conducted by Pastor Rev. C. William Cole. Interment Grandview Cemetery.

GOOD

Mr. Ira Joe Good, 63, passed away January 5, 1973. Preceded in death by wife Elizabeth Buckus Good and two sisters. Survived by son, J. Larry, Long Beach; daughter, Mrs. Wilma June Sickles at home. He was a brother of Earl John, Mrs. Elsie Ressler, Mrs. Pearl Amigh, Mrs. Mary Varner, Mrs. Lucy Hagerich, Jesse Lane, all of Conemaugh. Member of Vinco Brethren Church where services were conducted by Pastor Rev. C. William Cole. Interment in Headrick Cemetery.

* * *

HAGERICH

Mr. Ralph Hagerich, 72, passed away November 10, 1973. He is survived by his widow Ethel; and these children, Robert of Conemaugh, Mrs. Robert Moore, Vinco; Mrs. Richard Hunt, Niles, Ohio; Mrs. Harold Gillespie, Vinco; Mrs. Guy Baker, Vinco; Paul, Vinco; Mrs. Jack Leckey, Conemaugh; David, Vinco; Glenn, Conemaugh; Mrs. Vernon Crouse, Royersford; Rodney, Vinco; and Larry, Duncansville. Married 51 years in October. Member of Vinco Brethren Church where services were conducted by Pastor Rev. C. William Cole. Interment Benshoff Hill Cemetery.

DEATH IS NOT THE END

It is not ours to question, the wisdom of our Lord.
We should only wonder at, the blessings He bestows.
The reason for His blessings are, the Love He has for me, He doesn't mean for us to die—**He** died on Calvary.
When we begin to question God, our faith begins to waver, it makes us wonder about life, or if we'll live forever?
My friend when things look darkest, don't give up in despair, lift your eyes to Jesus, He is **always** there.
When we lose a loved one, and we have much pain, let us think of the words of Paul—to live is Christ but to die is gain.
God gets lonesome too, He reaches down, sometimes its me, sometimes its you. So don't question the wisdom of the Lord, my friend, this is not the End.

Written by Jacob S. Mackall

March 1, 1974

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

a time when
Christians everywhere
gather together
to pray

"Loved, We Will Love," a Bible-centered worship guide prepared by the National Association of Evangelicals, is available in booklet form for group participation in church and community services.

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FRED SOMEBODY, THOMAS EVERYBODY, AND PETER ANYBODY AND JOE NOBODY were neighbors, but they were not like you and me. They were odd people and most difficult to understand. The way they lived was a shame. All four belonged to the same church, but you would not have enjoyed worshiping with them. EVERYBODY went fishing on Sunday or stayed home to visit with friends. ANYBODY wanted to worship, but was afraid SOMEBODY wouldn't speak to him. So guess who went to church—uh-huh NOBODY. Really NOBODY was the only decent one of the four. NOBODY did the visitation. NOBODY worked on the church building. Once they needed a Sunday School teacher. EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY would do it, and ANYBODY thought SOMEBODY would do it. And you know who did it? That is exactly right . . . NOBODY. It happened that the fifth neighbor (an unbeliever) moved into the neighborhood EVERYBODY thought SOMEBODY should try to win him for Christ. ANYBODY could have made the effort. You probably know who finally won him, NOBODY!

from First Brethren Church Newsletter
Waterloo, Iowa



Research points out that from the time our republic was founded until the years around the middle of World War II the spending of the government totaled approximately $300 Billion.

A recent newscast revealed that the budget for the present United States for the next fiscal year calls for the spending of $300 Billion for this one year.

Can you spare 8¢ for a stamp to tell your representative in Congress how you feel about such a situation? You should if this doesn't make cents to you.

World Religious News in Review

1.6 BILLION PEOPLE IN 64 NATIONS SUPPRESSED IN CIVIL RIGHTS—SURVEY

NEW YORK (EP)—A recent survey indicates that 1.6 billion people in 64 nations and nine dependencies live under political regimes that suppress their civil rights.

The study, published by Freedom House here, is titled: "Comparative Study of Freedom." Freedom, the survey showed, is still a major need and a problem in today's world.

LOUIS CASSELS DIES AT 52: UPI COLUMNIST ON RELIGION

AIKEN, S.C. (EP) — Louis Cassels, religion columnist for United Press International and author of several books on religion and ethics, died of a heart attack at his home here at the age of 52.

His last work, Coontail Lagoon: A Celebration of Life, will be published by Westminster Press in April. It is a book of reflections about his love of nature and his marriage, and he described it as "the most religious book I have ever written."

An Episcopalian, Mr. Cassels enrolled at Duke University, a United Methodist school, with the aim of studying for the ministry. After he began writing for the student newspaper, he decided to make journalism his career.

Mr. Cassels was a critic of what he considered to be an excessive institutional concern on the part of religious public relations writers. Mr. Cassels is survived by his wife, Charlotte.

BLESSITT FAULTS STREET CHRISTIANS FOR EBBING ZEAL

DALLAS (EP)—The former "Minister of Sunset Strip," Arthur Blessitt, claimed here that "street Christians" in the U.S. have retreated from their crisis ministry.

"They are writing books and playing concerts that cost $5 to attend," he lamented during a visit here.

The tall, bearded evangelist who rose to prominence when he began walking a 12-foot cross around the world, reminded fellow Jesus followers that "prostitutes are roaming the streets . . . without Bibles. . . . Crime is rampant and no one is in back alleys offering new life and salvation through Jesus Christ."

Blessitt's cry was echoed in Washington, D.C., by Edward Plowman, news editor of Christianity Today. Plowman, a former minister in San Francisco, lamented the emphasis on high royalties by many who got their start witnessing to fellow dropouts and who, in his opinion, should not abandon their first calling to reach those in greatest need.

GIDEONS LAUNCH BIBLE PROGRAM IN INDIA

CALCUTTA (EP) — Gideons International of India, a branch of the American Bible-distributing association, has launched a program to distribute 1,850,000 Christian Bibles throughout this predominantly Hindu country in 1974.

Announcement of the ambitious program was made here at the fourth annual convention of the Indian organization in January.

An association of Christian business and professional men, Gideons International, with world headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, has branches in 97 countries around the world.

The organization has distributed more than 130 million Bibles and New Testaments in 40 languages, to hotels, motels, hospitals and penal institutions throughout the world.

The Gideons hope to distribute 15 million Bibles, world-wide in 1974.

MARYLAND HOUSE ENDORSES 'TEN COMMANDMENTS' BILL

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (EP)—The Maryland House of Delegates gave final approval here and sent on to the Senate a bill that would allow pupils or teachers to recite the Ten Commandments daily in the state's public schools.

The vote was 104 to 8. There was no discussion. Preliminary approval had been given earlier in committee.

If the State Senate concurs, the measure would extend state provisions which permit private meditation and Scripture reading in public primary and secondary schools.

REGENTS CHANGE VIEW ON BARRING BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE IN ARIZONA

TUCSON, Ariz. (EP)—The Arizona Board of Regents has changed its mind and will allow Evangelist Billy Graham to hold his May 1974 crusade in Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, home of the Arizona State University's football team.

Dr. Paul Singer, a regent, had objected because he said the state's constitution bars state funds or property from being used for religious exercises or instruction.

However, in April 1964, a Billy Graham Crusade drew 105,000 persons during a three-day meeting in the same Sun Devil Stadium. Use of the facility was not then questioned. A board spokesman explained that the vocal and legal aggressiveness of agnostics, atheists and far-left and right political groups during the past 10 years has forced the regents to look more closely at the uses of the stadium.

The crusade will go on as scheduled, May 5-12 this year.

ARTHUR BLESSITT CITES PROBLEMS FOR EVANGELISM IN MANY AREAS

MIAMI (EP)—Arthur Blessitt has a reputation of being a "hippie evangelist," but he doesn't always emphasize the same things when he preaches.

The bearded native of Louisianna, who has become world famous for carrying a 12-foot cross on his travels, described some of his experiences while speaking at several rallies in the Miami area.

"In Ireland," he said, "I was trying to focus their attention on the Christ of the cross, Who told us to love one another. The people are religious, but Christ is not relevant to them.

"In Spain, I wanted them to see that I was not carrying the cross in penance, but in the joy of the Lord, because Jesus is alive and we can know Him. They know about Jesus, but don't know how to know Him personally.

"In black Africa, I've been trying to show a picture of how Jesus died for our sins so that we can know God in our daily lives. They all believe in God, but don't know how to have peace with God.

"And in Morocco I emphasized that Jesus died for us as a sacrifice for sin, because the Arabs don't believe He died, but that He ascended to heaven before death."

The 33-year-old Southern Baptist said he would like to see Americans become as "people-conscious" as he has found Africans to be.

"They are friendly and take strangers into their modest homes and give them the very best that they have," he reported. "Material things don't get in their way."

PROTESTANT MISSION FORCE WORLDWIDE EXCEEDS 50,000

MONROVIA, Calif. (EP)—The number of Protestant missionary workers worldwide now stands between 50,000 and 55,000, according to the Missions Advanced Research and Communication Center (MARC).

The agency's Mission Handbook: North American Protestant Ministries Overseas, just released, shows that of this number, 35,070 originate from North America. This means that between 65 and 70 per cent of the missionary personnel come from North America and serve in other areas of the world.

Of the non-North American missionaries, some 3,000 now originate from "Third World" (Africa, Asia, Latin America) countries.

The listing of the top ten this year shows substantial changes from the 1970 directory. Youth with a Mission appears for the first time. Short-term missionaries are included in the calculation. Youth with a Mission has 896 short-term missionaries out of its listing of 1,009.

The editors of the Handbook estimate that $393 million was spent in the operation of the missions programs of the North American agencies.

The countries receiving the largest numbers of North American missionaries are: Brazil, Japan, Mexico, India, and the Philippines.

DR. JACKSON: IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS WOULD DIVIDE U.S., WEAKEN PEACE DRIVE

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (EP)—Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, president of the black National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., told the denomination's board of directors here that he opposes impeachment proceedings against President Nixon now because it would lead to further division of the country and weaken or destroy its leadership in world peace.

Dr. Jackson, president of the convention for 21 years, said he believed impeachment "cannot now be justly performed in the case before us."

"The Watergate hearings," said Dr. Jackson, "have not produced any body of evidence that proves the President absolutely guilty without a reasonable doubt. Also, President Nixon's term will expire in three years."

He said he doubted that this generation wanted to be the first to send an occupant from the White House by any means other than a vote of the people.

Dr. Jackson said the structure of the nation is based on coordination and harmony between the executive, legislative and judicial branches and that "we need this type of unity and fellowship more than we need the growing and running battles between our three branches of government, all of which branches are essential to the unity and strength of the nation. . . ."

The churchman said he thought Congress should place the energy crisis first on its agenda, "because it is resulting in increased unemployment, lowering of the standard of living and making the nation's dependence on other nations more hazardous."

NEW CATHOLIC RITE COULD END CONFESSIONAL BOOTH

NEW YORK (EP)—A historic change in the Roman Catholic Church's ritual for penance allows for either retaining or eliminating the darkened confessional booth.

The changes call for freer, less formalized conversation between priest and penitent, along with use of Scripture and spontaneous prayer, in addition to moving out of the old "box" and taking away the screen between priest and confessor.

The new rites were issued by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship as its final phase in current liturgical reform. It comes at a time when Catholic confessionals are decreasing.

BACK TO THE BIBLE BROADCAST WILL MARK 35th YEAR

LINCOLN, Nebr. (EP)—Special programs by the Back to the Bible Broadcast will be aired April 29 - May 4 commemorating the 35th anniversary May 1 of this global radio outreach.

Dr. Theodore H. Epp, under whose direction the organization operates, founded the Good News Broadcasting Association in 1939 here.

The program has grown from one 15-minute program on a local Lincoln station to 3,600 releases weekly in English. It is heard on more than 550 radio stations around the world.

CHEEP ADVICE



Sometimes one pays the most for the things one gets for nothing.—Albert Einstein

A sure way to develop more wisdom teeth is to bite off more than you can chew.

Every man has three characters—that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has.—Alphonse Karr

I don't like these cold, precise, perfect people, who, in order not to speak wrong, never speak at all, and in order not to do wrong, never do anything.—Henry Ward Beecher

It has been suggested that perhaps there is nothing on the market that will improve a person's hearing as well as praise.

Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The phrase, "Opened by mistake" could apply to mouths more often than to mail.

It is not enough to be busy; so are the ants. The question is: what are we busy about?
—Henry David Thoreau

It's remarkable how courtesy can be so contagious in view of the fact that there is so little of it to begin with.

LAFF-A-LITTLE

A political pot never boils anymore. The applesauce is just heated over and over again.

No wonder they put the name "Federal Income Tax" on the cover page of the forms. The first letters of each word spell F I T.

This reminds us of the fellow who sent 25¢ to the Internal Revenue Bureau with a note saying that it was his understanding that he could pay his taxes by the quarter.

Many a man has come out of his shell when his wife has egged him on.

An account of a wedding on a society page recently read: "The six bridesmaids wore dresses of hyacinth blue silk, the two pages were dressed in crimson velvet, with gold lace, and a pale bridegroom completed the color scheme."

Remember "Buck Rogers?" Well, Science is catching up. It is only about 50 years behind the comic books now.

Buck: Can you give me a definition of an orator?

Private: Sure. He's the fellow who's always ready to lay down your life for his country.

Husband: I wish that you could make the bread my mother used to make.

Wife: I wish you could make the dough my father used to make.

Why is it that as soon as they take the players off the gridiron, they put the coaches in the pan.

Officer: Why did you keep on going after I whistled?

Lady driver: Sorry, officer, I'm pretty deaf.

Officer: Well, don't worry, lady, you'll get your hearing in the morning.

Next time you see someone polluting, point it out.

Don't close your eyes.
Point it out to someone who
can do something about it.



People start pollution.
People can stop it.

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The Brethren EVANGELIST



MARCH

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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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NOTES and COMMENTS

Due to some changes made in lists of church officers, information not received in time for inclusion in the directory and some additional information being received we will try to publish these changes such as are in this issue under the heading DIRECTORY UPDATE on page 17.

These insertions will be published in the same format as is found in the directory and may easily be taken out and placed in their proper positions where these changes are to be made.

The birthday list of our missionaries serving overseas and their families is published on pages 12 and 13 along with their current addresses. These pages are also arranged so that they may easily be removed and kept for reference.



A Study on Divorce and Remarriage . . . in the Bible with **Louis Gough,** Jerry Flora, and Mike Dodds.

and

in Church history with **Gene Holinger,** Owen Alderfer and Charles Lowmaster. Small group interaction.

At the 1974 Brethren Pastor's Conference Park St. Brethren Church, Ashland Ohio April 30 May 2.

By the Way

The Big ?

True or False?

It has been an expression of long-standing that an accused person is to be declared innocent unless proven guilty. It seems that in our recent history, individuals, groups, and even corporations have found themselves in the limelight being accused of misconduct or criminal acts.

So much has been publicized in the past year or so of acts committed by individuals, political parties, military units and others that one is beginning to wonder who did what and who did not.

A group of selected lawmakers of our nation sit on a panel which is in charge of conducting an investigation revolving around a person or a group of persons, a corporation or even other lawmakers.

Witnesses are either issued a subpoena or offer their testimony voluntarily in these hearings and a verdict is arrived at after the panel deliberates on the testimony presented. The verdict has to be either guilty or not guilty. Whatever the verdict, the question of doubt may still linger in the air, "Did they?" or "Didn't they?"

A person may be arrested and tried for a criminal act. He or she is on trial before a jury composed of twelve of his or her peers. One attorney argues that the crime was committed by the defendant, the other attorney denies that it was. One witness says he saw the person at the scene of the crime, another witness is not sure. Each barrister rests his case and the jury deliberates. The verdict is announced as either guilty or not quility. Once again, doubt hangs invisibly in the atmosphere: "Did he or she?" or "Didn't he or she?"

A malicious bit of gossip or a loose tongue starts a cancerous rumor that casts a stigma on a man or woman. There is no panel or jury to determine whether it is true or not. There are only individual verdicts rendered. They are either: the rumor is true or it is a falsehood. Yet, the question is always there, "Did he or she?" or "Didn't he or she?"

BUT—

There is a time coming when all the millions of questions that have been asked and answered, truthfully or not, may be asked again. There will not be a jury present, no prosecuting attorney, no attorney for the defense. There will be no court stenographer, no baliff. There may or may not even be any spectators in the courtroom.

When the questions are asked and the testimony is given, the verdict will be rendered and when the verdict, guilty or not guilty, is presented there will be no more questions floating around, "Did they" or "Didn't they?"

You see, with the Almighty God, there is no question. HE KNOWS! (G.S.)

Moderator's Manna



Dr. James E. Carter says, "Mission is not the special task of certain 'called' people but the inherent opportunity of all who accept Jesus as Lord." This thought is apropos for our thinking and stimulation for my sharing with the Brethren. If we would grasp the 'inherent opportunity' that we affirm and profess—what a moving force we would become and continue becoming as the Holy Spirit transforms small collections of persons all across this land into fellowships willing to seek and discover God's mission. Local churches must constantly seek to be mission.

E. Glenn Hinson in **"The Church Design for Survival,"** says that the church "exists in order to pour out its life in service healing the sick, casting out demons, cleansing lepers, restoring sight for the blind, providing food for the hungry, giving rest to the weary, making homes for the homeless, bringing comfort to the distraught, preaching peace to those near and far. Like Jesus himself, it lives by dying, pouring out its life to satisfy human need wherever and in whatever form it finds it." (p. 35) Many goals for the church are suggested in this statement of mission. Some of the Brethren are launching them successfully and some of our Brethren have refused to meet the challenge.

I am simply amazed at how few of our local congregations are willingly pouring themselves out. Individual members are saving the message of God's salvation for the rainy day. How sad! These churches are hibernating and the community knows you are not pouring out, therefore, will you continue sleeping or will you rise to the 'inherent opportunity' and share the living message in service? It may include the death of old methods and ideas and a refocusing upon God's mission of love and concern to all the community. As a body of believers we must seek to follow His will and to serve His needs. Each member may have to discover a new function and gift to share with the fellowship, but then it would be worth the struggle if we could motivate the entrusted fellowship. It could be that all those not so glamorous functions we have been running from for years are what would bring about the solution. It may be painful, but if it could get the ball rolling or the Church Alive—WOW! Praise the Lord. Give it a try!

Something else I would like you to do. I want you to honestly ask these three questions of your church. Personally reflect for yourself and then do it again for someone who maybe seems to you uninvolved. See if your answers harmonize or face conflict. Here they are:

1. Does it feel good to fellowship in your church right now?
2. Do you feel you are celebrating with friends, people you like and trust, and who like and trust you?
3. Is it fun and exciting to be a member of your church?

If you could answer "yes" to all three questions for yourself and for someone else, then I am certain you are a part of what could be called a "living dynamic fellowship." If you had to answer "no" or "sometimes" to any or all questions, you ought to consider seeking help to discover the 'inherent opportunity' within your fellowship.

The help I will suggest you try is to follow I Peter 2:11. This passage suggests the people of God are a pilgrim people. Church pilgrims are in search of truth and new ways of serving effectively the Lord Jesus. Many of us have become settlers rather than pilgrims in church outreach as well as our organizational responsibilities. Through the compulsion of the Holy Spirit and compassion from the Holy Spirit the people of God in local situations will search for new opportunities to function within the fellowship. The pilgrims need to continue seeking ways for others to do their responsibility in order that they may fill a vacant or new responsibility. Far too many church members have become content where they are, thus boredom and stagnation permeates the people of God—settlers and not pilgrims? Pray for pilgrims and not settlers!

Praise the Lord for the 'inherent opportunity' for you to become a vital pilgrim within your small collection of the people of God.

Moderator 1974
Paul D. Steiner, Pastor
220 E. Locust St.
Lanark, Illinois 61046

POETRY CORNER

"THE SON OF GOD WHO LOVES ME"

I alone am embraced by Him
But not to the exclusion of others.
Though Love is an intensely
individual thing—
He treats us all like His brothers.
First we recognize His love
Accept and appreciate it, too,
He eases our fears and casts
them out—
If we just follow through.
We know it is in measure now,
And hope and dream of more.
It will be perfect up above—
He has so much in store.
Christ's love for the church
Is told to us in the Word we read
each day.
The sweetest story ever told
Is in our hearts to stay.

Helen Barnhart

Ephesians 5:25, 27—"Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it—a glorious church—holy and without blemish."

Copyright Helen Barnhart 1974—(from Collection: "Words of Comfort")





"ALL IS CHRIST'S"

The riches of His grace
Are revealed in a wonderful way,
In His advent on the scene
In a manger filled with hay.
Being merciful and faithful
He intercedes each day.
And that is why He lived—
To help us when we pray.
'Twas judgment we deserved,
Unmerited favor we receive,
We can approach the throne,
If we will just believe.
Our Christ is rich in glory
That some day we'll behold—
When face to face we meet Him
Some glorious day, so we're told.

Helen Barnhart

Proverbs 8:17, 18—"I love them that love Me; and those that seek Me early shall find Me. Riches and honour are with me."

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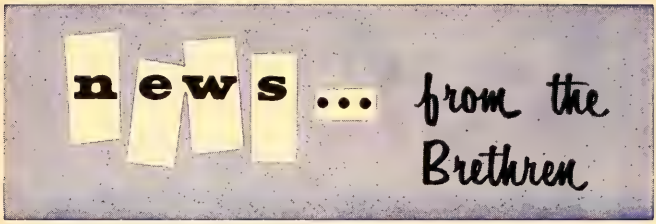
TIME MARCHES ON



FIFTY YEARS AGO: A program presented by the Ashland College Girl's Glee Club was broadcast over station K.D.K.A. one of the most powerful radio stations in America. Professor Haun, manager of the Glee Club was able to schedule this broadcast through the assistance of Mr. John Rishel of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: Dr. Martin J. Shively was signally honored at McDowell Auditorium in Ashland, Ohio by being cited as the Golden Rule Honor Citizen of the Community. The presentation was made at a function of the Ashland Booster Club.

TEN YEARS AGO: Charles Oberly, a member of the North Liberty, Indiana Brethren Church was the recipient of the "God and Country Award." "Chuck" as he is known to his friends and parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Oberly was to be elevated to the rank of "Eagle Scout" in the very near future following the award.



Memorials

SPARKS

Mr. Delmar Sparks passed away at the age of 45, Thursday, January 17, 1974. He was married to Shirley Buck, who survives along with 4 children and one grandchild. Services were held at the Ardmore Brethren Church with Rev. Brian Moore officiating.

* * *

OPEL

Mrs. Ellen Opel, 78, passed away on January 18, 1974. She is survived by her husband William, 5 children, 15 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Opel was faithful to her Lord and to the Main Street Brethren Church of which she was a member.

Services were conducted January 21 at the Konhaus Funeral Home, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, with Rev. Joseph Hanna officiating. Interment was in the Union Cemetery, Meyersdale.

* * *

FOUNTAIN

Mr. George Fountain died very suddenly on Tuesday, January 22, 1974. He and his family had been members of the Washington Brethren Church for some time and shared mutual Christian friendship. The funeral service was conducted at the Church with Rev. Robert Keplinger, pastor, officiating.

* * *

HAUPERT

Douglas Kim Haupert, 19, went to be with the Lord on February 15, 1974, following a car-train accident in Wabash County, Indiana.

Doug is survived by his parents, Lorin and Mary Haupert of Roann; brothers, Roger of Fort Wayne, Timothy and Larry at home; sisters, Roberta Thompson of Fort Wayne, Peggy and Mary Louise at home; and his paternal grandmother Mrs. Hazel Haupert of Roann. He was preceded in death by a sister.

The funeral services were conducted at the Roann First Brethren Church by the Rev. William H. Kerner.

EBBINGHOUSE

Mrs. Edith Ebbinghouse passed away December 7th at Stratford House after a long illness. One son and two grandchildren survive. Services were held in the N. Manchester First Brethren Church with Rev. Woodrow A. Immel officiating.

* * *

BOLLINGER

Mrs. Mae Bollinger, widow of Homer Bollinger, passed away unexpectedly at her home this fall in late October. She was active in the business world and in the work of her church. Pastor Immel officiated at her memorial service.

* * *

BAKER

Harry Baker passed away suddenly Nov. 7th as he was working on a fence row near his home. One son, Joe, and four grandsons survive. Memorial Services were held Saturday, November 12th. Pastor Immel officiated at the service.

* * *

BUSH

Mrs. Mildred Bush passed away at her home and services were held at the Bender Funeral Home on December 22nd, Pastor Woodrow A. Immel officiating. Her husband Lamoine survives as well as a son Max; and a daughter Madeline Conrad.

* * *

RUSE

Mrs. Roy (Haxel) Ruse passed away at her home just a few days after Christmas. She is survived by her husband Roy, and a son Wayne. Services were held Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock with Pastor Immel officiating.

* * *

WENDELL

Paul Wendell suffered a fatal heart attack on the morning of November 20th, enroute to the Wabash Hospital. He is survived by his wife Virginia. Interment was in the Fairview cemetery. Pastor Immel officiated at the Memorial Service.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Abe celebrated their 51st Wedding Anniversary on January 20.
Sarasota, Florida

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Omer Rodkey, Burlington, Indiana, observed their 64th Wedding Anniversary on February 12.

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Aden Yoder observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 24.
Sarasota, Florida

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Peck, 50th Wedding Anniversary March 3, 1974, Falls City, Nebraska.

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Paul LaDow observed their 58th Wedding Anniversary on February 7.

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Penrod celebrated their 50th on February 5.

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Nafziger, their 52nd on Feb. 16.

* * *

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Denlinger, their 51st on January 27.
Sarasota, Florida

MINERAL POINT, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming Evangelistic Services—April 22-28, 1974.
At the Vinco Brethren Church—Pastor: Rev. C. William Cole
Evangelist: Rev. James R. Black of Milledgeville, Illinois



A daughter Wendy Kay Barr, born Feb. 9, 1974 to Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Barr. Rev. Gerald Barr is pastor of the Mexico Church in Peru.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Roann, Indiana—7 by baptism, 2 by letter
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania—1 by baptism
North Manchester, Indiana—6 by baptism, 8 by letter
Mineral Point, Pennsylvania—4 by baptism
Masontown, Pennsylvania—12 by baptism
Sarasota, Florida — 20 by baptism
Bradenton, Florida — 3 by baptism
South Bend, Indiana (Ardmore) — 4 by letter



Do you know what the event of the year is?



CHURCH NEWS

MILLEDGEVILLE, ILLINOIS

The February 6th issue of the Sterling-Rock Falls, Illinois DAILY GAZETTE featured a short article on a demonstration on the art of quilting which was to be given at the Sauk Valley Arts and Crafts Show held at Sauk Valley College.

Three ladies of the Milledgeville Brethren Church took part in this event; Mrs. Robert Eastabrooks, Mrs. Ralph Allison and Mrs. George Miatke. The three ladies quilt regularly at the home of Mrs. Allison who is the mother of Rev. Richard Allison, the pastor of the Jefferson Brethren Church, Goshen, Indiana.

Quilting is falling into the category of many almost-lost arts and is adding to the painting of "Vanishing America" and it is refreshing to hear of these ladies who are devoting time and fellowship to a time-honored American tradition.

MORRILL, KANSAS

The Morrill Brethren Church had 23 enrolled in their "Good News Club" held each Wednesday evening through the summer. The members of the WMS helped serve refreshments at each meeting. Mrs. Elmer Keck and Mrs. Clair Berkley had charge of teaching the children and Mrs. Raymond Landes was the pianist as well as helping with the teaching. The offering from the group was given to The Day Care Center in Hiawatha, Kansas.

Twenty-four were enrolled in the Vacation Bible School held in July. They had four girls from Ashland College to help, as well as, Mrs. Raymond Landes and daughter, Carolyn. The WMS furnished refreshments for the group.

Ken and Kirk Stapleton attended church camp.

Mrs. Clair Berkley, Sec.

BURLINGTON, INDIANA

Burlington First Brethren Church conducted a Teachers Training Course for its teachers. Rev. Jack Oxenrider, coordinator of the Brethren Retreat of Indiana District Brethren Churches, Shipshewana, was instructor.

The Sunday School of the First Brethren Church of Burlington from grades 2 through high school enjoyed a skating party at the Frankfort rink—Tuesday evening February 12. The church bus was loaded to capacity and a good time was reported by all, about 60 attended.

On Tuesday evening February 12, The Home Maker's Class shared an oyster soup supper which included all the trimmings, with cake and pie for dessert. After a short business meeting, the evening was spent in sharing experiences and visiting; 24 were in attendance.

Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, Vice President of Ashland College and Seminary, Ashland, Ohio, spoke at the evening service, February 17.

MASONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

A bit of correspondence from the Masontown Brethren Church reveals that quite a bit of involvement has been seen in various areas of the church and the community. Some of the Sunday-School classes took it upon themselves to refurnish and refurbish the kitchen of the church with some new appliances and flooring.

A hotel fire in the community which left about 33 people without shelter and without clothes and furniture prompted the Masontown WMS ladies to institute a program of home mission work. This program called for the creation of an emergency fund and it seems that no sooner had aid been provided through this fund when another fire occurred in the city leaving three families totaling nine persons destitute.

Once again these concerned ladies came forth with assistance with their contributions newly solicited.

A farmer attended a Church Conference as a delegate. The issue was brought up as to the best method to get people to attend church. During the discussion period the farmer asked for the floor. Having received permission to speak, he said, "I have attended quite a few Seminars and Workshops on farming and I have never heard any discussion on how we are to get our cattle to come in to the feeding racks. The biggest concern deals with the type of feed we use in our racks.



TO THE EDITOR

Printed here is a portion of a letter received by Sandy Schwartz, wife of Edward S. Schwartz, formerly pastor of The Oak Hill Brethren Church in Oak Hill, West Virginia and who are now residing at 518 North 50th Ct., Pompano Beach, Florida 33064.

Dear Editor:

Greetings from the "south". Let the Brethren know we still keep in touch with you through letters, THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST and telephone messages.

We feel the Lord led us here to prepare us for some ministry in the future. With today's trend in education and morals, we praise the Lord that our children are in a Christian School. Each day our daughter Laurie, who is 5 years old, comes home with some Bible lessons she learned in Kindergarden.

Ed teaches the College and Career Class in Sunday School and helps in Junior Church each Sunday. He is also teaching 4th grade each day in the Highlands Christian Academy.

In addition to teaching music and piano lessons I have been serving as pianist for the services at church.

It was a privilege for us to have been able to visit the Learning Center at Brethren House in St. Petersburg last fall and to then go over to Sarasota and attend services at the Sarasota Brethren Church.

We pray that we can utilize the experience and the adaption to another facet of a way of life to wherever God may lead us.

Love in Christ
Sandy Schwartz.

Dear Editor:

We have just noticed your excellent editorial and use of our TV ad/coupon to help point out some avenues of protest open to concerned evangelicals on TV permissiveness.

NAE's campaign has been well received thus far, although we expect most magazines will be using the ad in January. We will keep returns by magazine key so we will be able to report to you how many **BRETHREN EVANGELIST** readers responded.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and editorial plug. The courteous extension of your valuable space for this cause is greatly appreciated.

In Christ,
Tom Johnston
Director of Information



RESPECT AND REVERE



MISSIONARY NEWS

EVANGELISM IN INDIA



Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar with the ordained pastors Rev. T. Raja Rao (left) from Rajamundry and Rev. B. Bhushanam (right) from Gokavaram.

Prasantha Kumar reports, "The Spirit of the Lord is with us when we go into the villages to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ; people who lived in darkness by worshipping idols for many years are coming into the light and are accepting Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. When we first go into a new village we visit many homes and try to be friendly with the people. Nirmala and myself give our testimony and tell how the Lord is blessing us. We pray at every home we visit and after a few days we invite them for a prayer meeting. We slowly develop the prayer meeting into a prayer group that will become a congregation as the Holy Spirit works in every individual.

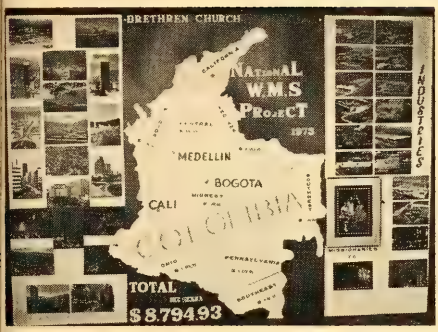
"So far we have established prayer groups in the interior jungles and also in the islands where the people live in ignorance by worshipping the river Godavari. Five of the villages which were prayer groups last year have now flourished into congregations. They are Padamati Khandrika (West Khandrika), Balabhadrapuram, Madurapudi, Kapavaram, and Velagathodu. The Lord is indeed blessing our ministry in the villages."



Christian convention in Rajamundry

Each January the Brethren Mission conducts a Christian Convention in Rajahmundry where members and others interested in the work and witness of the church, gather together in Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. In 1973 eighty-four persons were baptized during the convention, the Bible Institute held its graduation, and two evangelists were ordained to the gospel ministry. Through the convention, the Bible Institute, the Health Center, open air meetings, village prayer groups, and the individual Christian witness;—the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being presented in Andhra Pradesh, India by the Brethren Mission.

WHAT NEW FIELD?



Have you been watching the news about our new Brethren Mission Field in Colombia, South America?

Remember in August, 1971 when the National Women's Missionary Society voted for their project, the raising of funds for a new overseas missionary field for the Brethren? Then in February, 1972 John Rowsey, the Associate Secretary of the Missionary Board was instructed to survey various possibilities during an administrative visit to Argentina. In April, 1972 the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church in their spring meeting heard the report of that survey and after prayer made plans to enter Colombia as that new field. In June, 1972 the announcement was made in the BRETHREN EVANGELIST that Colombia had been selected and in July, 1972 announcement was made that the Kenneth Solomon family had accepted the call to be the missionaries to open this field for the Brethren.

In August of 1972 the women had their first ingathering for this project during General Conference, received approximately $9,000 and decided to continue the project for another year. In December of that year the Solomons returned to the United States from Argentina where they had sold their things and closed their ministry in this country. While in the United States they participated in a number of special training sessions to prepare them for their new work and in June, 1973 made their first trip to Colombia accompanied by Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham. During this short visit the team had quite a list of things to be accomplished including the decision as to the city where they would be located. Upon their return it was announced that the new mission would be located in the city of Medellin to begin the work of planting a Brethren church in Colombia.

During General Conference in 1973 the Solomons were present to assist with the ingathering of the Women's Missionary Society project monies which totaled $8,794.93. Finally in December of 1973, because of what the women had started back in 1971, the Solomon family departed for Medellin, Colombia, South America.

They have now located a house to rent and are busy making contacts with those of their neighborhood as well as taking care of the many other items necessary for beginning a new organization in a country overseas. Why don't you write them and tell them you are concerned and are praying for them? Their address:

Kenneth L. Solomon
Apartado Aereo 055171
Medellin, Colombia, South America

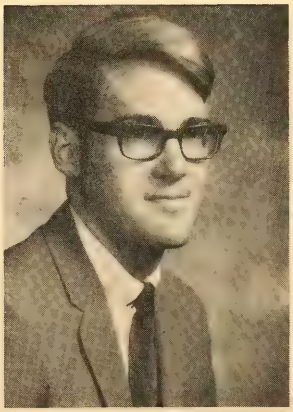
If you would like to know more about this country, the Missionary Board has a slide set, COME WITH US TO COLOMBIA containing seventy-five color slides and a thirty-three minute cassette narration recorded by Kenneth Solomon before their departure. This set can be borrowed without charge from the:

Missionary Board of the Brethren Church
530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805

WELCOME HOME WINFIELDS

The Richard Winfields (Dick, Kitty, and Melissa Jo) are due to return to the United States by mid-March for their second furlough from Nigeria. After a time with their families they will be residing at the Missionary Home, 705 Grant Street in Ashland, Ohio.

Present plans call for them to be in the Ashland area for about a year during which they will be involved in deputation, preparation for their return to Nigeria, and continuation of work related to their responsibilities in Nigeria. Churches interested in having them for a missionary conference or other missionary emphasis should contact the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.



Rev. Richard Winfield

OUR BRETHREN OVERSEAS MISSIC



SOLOMON

Kenneth	September 11
Jeannette	July 17
Timothy	February 18, 1956
Rebecca	February 27, 1958
Joel	June 4, 1963
Margaret	January 9, 1965

Write:
Apartado Aereo 055171
Medellin
Colombia, South America



WINFIELD

Dick	November 14
Kitty	August 31
Melissa Jo	February 15, 1971

Write:
c/o Church of the Brethren
Box 626
Jos, Benue-Plateau State
Nigeria, West Africa

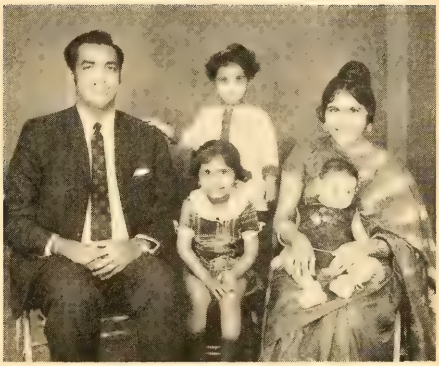
GRIEVE

Jerry	January 30
Cheryl	June 25
Dawn	November 26, 1967
Nicole	August 9, 1970
Seth Andrew (not pictured)	November 6, 1973

Write:
c/o Hong Secondary School
P.M.B. 2016
Hong via Yola
North East State
Nigeria, West Africa



PRAY FOR THEM -- WRITE THEM



KUMAR

Prasantha	April 27
Nirmala	February 13
Shanti	April 10, 1969
Sunita	April 18, 1971
Sudhir	August 7, 1972

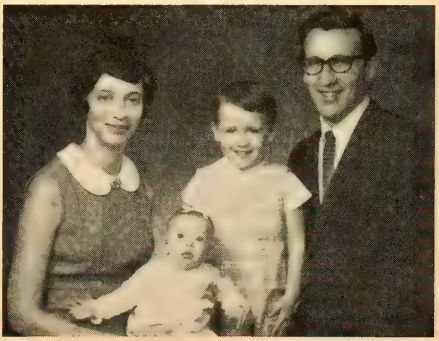
Write:
Post Box No. 64
Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh
India



ASPINALL

Raymond	January 19
Marilyn	August 8
Mark*	December 29, 1955
Kathy	June 25, 1959
Claudia	August 29, 1961

Write:
Ayacucho 1858
Rosario, (Pcia, Santa Fe)
Argentina, South America
*(Mark is in the United States)
c/o Adin Murray
Rt. 1
Sterling, Ohio 44276



WINTER

William	April 27
Sharon	September 8
Todd	January 30, 1968
Heidi	September 28, 1970

Write:
O'Higgins 3168
Buenos Aires (29)
Argentina, South America

WORD FROM THE GRIEVES

As announced in the December 15, 1973 issue of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST, a boy, Seth Andrew, has arrived at the home of the Jerry Grieves in Nigeria. Born on November 6, 1973 in Jos, Cheryl says, "Words just cannot express our joy over Seth Andrew, for to us he represents yet another example of God's constant blessing in our lives."

Talking about their work of translation she goes on to say, "Our co-translator is currently working on a first draft translation of the Gospel of Mark. The way the people are now joining hands and co-operating in the whole translation project is another answer to prayer. A full team of workers has been chosen and is sharing different aspects of the work. The key word among us all now is 'co-operation'."

The Grieves have tentative plans to return to the United States on furlough during the period April through June of 1974. This short furlough is planned during a natural break in their translation work and since it is a short time, extensive deputation cannot be scheduled.

The Grieves pass on prayer requests for Pastor Peter Mambaka as he translates Mark, that it might be a good idiomatic translation into Kilba as well as for him and Pastor William as they take their second course in translation principles. They also request your prayer in their own mastery of the language and as they check the translation of Mark.



Jerry Grieve and informant as they work together in the Kilba language.

STOP THE WORLD I WANT TO GET ON!



C. Peter Wagner is out with a new book and the title sounds as if he is excited about something. On his first page he gives an indication of what that something is, "I'm writing this book, for one thing, to suggest that if you're still clutching some stereotyped ideas of missions, you're out of it. If you step back and take a look at the whole picture, you will soon be aware that the Christian church—especially in America, but also in other parts of the world—shifted into high gear when it rounded the curve from the 1960's to the 1970's. All signals are **go** right now."

The first chapter deals with some of the things happening today, the second asks "Are the Heathen Really Lost?" and then goes on to talk about the priorities involved in answering this question. The third chapter "Every Christian is **NOT** a Missionary" is a beautiful commentary on spiritual gifts in general and the "Missionary Gift" in particular, including pointers on discovering **your** gift. The next few chapters deal with the machinery of missions including the missionary and the sending church plus a chapter on the "Fourth Dimension of Missions." Three hundred and sixty degree missions and missions at bargain prices are discussed in the latter chapters as he talks about third world mission societies. The final chapter contains practical information about getting involved in missionary service and missionary support and gives specific addresses as to where to write for more information. The appendix is a "Self-study Missionary Reading List" which can be very practical for more study into these matters.

The book, published under the Regal banner by Gospel Light Publications can be purchased from the Brethren Book Store or other Christian book store for $1.95. The title? STOP THE WORLD I WANT TO GET ON! Why don't you get a copy and see what he is so excited about.

As the author says, "God never intended missions to stop, at least until this age is over and Jesus returns. . . . More missionaries than ever before should be moving out to the fields of the world if Christians are going to follow God's game plan."

CONGRATULATIONS JOHN AND ROGER



John Guli as he visited the Park Street church in Ashland

From time to time we have published informational extracts from prayer letters by Wycliffe Bible Translator, Roger Mohrlang on the progress of the translation of the New Testament into Higi. Working with Roger on the actual translation is John Guli, a Higi pastor who has also been featured on these pages in the past. As they enter the final stages of their labor of love, that of preparing their manuscript of the entire New Testament for publication, we congratulate them on a job well done.

Last Spring when the Gospel of Mark in Higi arrived, the first edition of two thousand copies was sold out in a short time. Many were purchased by total illiterates, people who had no idea which side of the book was right side up but who began to memorize the first page word-by-word in the hopes that they would learn to read it in this way. Literacy classes have begun all over the area, ladies old enough to have a dozen children are like six-year olds in their first day of school.

John Guli will continue his work as he has been named the literacy co-ordinator for his area while Roger will move on to begin to work with others. **GOOD JOB** John and Roger and may the Lord continue to bless both of you in your work.

If you would be interested in learning more about the work of the Wycliffe Bible Translators and men such as Roger, John, and the Jerry Grieves (see article elsewhere in this issue) the Missionary Board, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805 has several audio-visuals available for loan without charge. Items available are:

COME LIVE WITH US a color filmstrip with cassette or record (please indicate your choice for sound) showing the work of the Wycliffe Translators in New Guinea.

TWELVE WEEKS TO SURVIVAL also a color filmstrip with cassette or record (please indicate your choice) telling of the jungle training the Wycliffe Translators go through.

WEST AFRICA SPRINGBOARD a set of sixty two color slides with cassette narration of the work of the Wycliffe Translators in Africa.

Also available is a slide set with cassette narration called **TIZHE** which was written by Brethren missionary Dick Winfield and which depicts the boyhood, life, and training for the pastorate of a boy from the Higi area of Nigeria.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

A letter just arrived from John Guli informs us that the Higi churches have been formed into one guduma (district) and have elected John to be their Executive Secretary thus he will co-ordinate this work with that of Literacy and Literature. Another Higi pastor, Zira Dia, will be in charge of team evangelism for the district and he and John will be working together in conducting classes for evangelists as well as other literacy classes.

The seven Higi churches represent more than seventy preaching points and approximately four thousand five hundred members. John reports that in this district one thousand additional were baptized in 1973 and many others are attending baptism classes.

Three Kulp Bible School graduates from this Higi district will be returning to the school for advanced training along with four new ones for the regular training. Prayer and Praise is given and requested for the work of the Nigerian church.



Roger Mohrlang at mimeograph in Nigeria

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



EPIC OF THE TOWEL

Sometimes one could almost "throw in the towel." When the rowdiness reaches fever pitch, especially some teen nights like the one tonight when there was an abundance of screaming, heckling, shoving, mouthing off, motorcycle revving, loud laughing, door-slamming, and the like. Especially when one is tired after a day of trying to "get everything done that needs to be done."

"What's the use?" one tends to question when all one observes is kids behaving in ways that seem rude, when no evidence is seen that they understand anything that is really important. Their little clusters of boisterousness seem to defy any effort to reach them with God's love.

"Why try?" one thinks surrounded by the seeming purposeless confusion.

But then up comes Jeff flashing his home-made sheriff's badge. "You're under arrest," he says with a twinkle in his eye. "You have the right to remain silent and can make one phone call." Here is a chance to communicate, to build the bridge, to show one Little One I care enough to play his game. Last night I helped him pronounce some words in John's gospel.

And there is Theresa clutching her omni-present lunch box with Snoopy on the front. Inside are a few treasured possessions. She, her brother, sister and mother have recently moved in with another family and she holds that lunch box the way Linus does his security blanket. Such lovely blue eyes she has. "You're under arrest," she echoes her friend.

And inside Brethren House amid the confusion Marlin sits and labors over a picture of Moses that Bonnie will use in a simple picture puzzle for the Little Ones to help them review the Bible accounts presented earlier in the year. Marlin no longer goes to school, doesn't live at home, but keeps coming back to Brethren House on Monday nights to join in the activities. Such potential this boy has. His father said one time it was all right for the kids to come to Brethren House, but he didn't want to hear anything about religion. That's o.k. Marlin comes back and so do his brothers and sisters.

Lord, give me strength and patience and wisdom to go on. The towel can wait! —

Jean

GURU'S SESSIONS SAID TO HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON HOUSTON'S YOUTH

HOUSTON (EP)—The gathering of Guru Maharaj Ji and his followers at the Astrodome here has apparently had little impact on Houston youth, according to a minister on the staff of the First Methodist church.

Most of those attending were from out of town, observed the Rev. Daniel Steere, the church's minister of evangelism.

He said the only church people he knew of who went to the sessions, known as "Millennium '73," were a few "on the fringes" who had been uncomfortable with their own peer group.

Mr. Steere reported that he had talked with one of these and had been told that the young person was "helped to find peace within himself."

Most of the young people coming into Houston for the gathering appeared to be from the "counter-culture," Mr. Steere said, adding that their devotion to the guru shows there "obviously is a need."

The message to the churches may be that they are not reaching youth outside "middle America," he said.

NOWTIME '74 EVANGELISM IS LAUNCHED IN AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY (EP) — Nowtime '74 has inaugurated what promises to be a year of evangelical activity in Australia.

More than 2,500 Christians, from the institutional Church and the "Jesus Movement," gathered here for a convention that was organized by the Australian Christian Endeavor Movement.

It culminated in a "Jesus march" from Sydney University to Sydney Town Hall featuring banners bearing anti-pornography slogans.

The Rev. Bernard Judd, an Anglican clergyman who has become widely known as an opponent of "booze and gambling," wrote a statement against permissiveness that was handed to the speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Jim Cameron, at the end of the march.

It warned that moral pollution posed a "real threat to our Australian way of life."

After the nine days of activities connected with Nowtime '74, which included evangelistic rallies and Scripture distribution, its organizers began making plans for a Festival of Light, to be patterned after the campaign of that name that was held in Britain two years ago.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Page 2 Benevolent Board Phone change (about March 15th):
Phone: (419) 325-3696

Page 4 (George Kerlin's correct address)
April—World Relief
1318 E. Douglas, Goshen, IN 46526

Page 9 District Camps
Pennsylvania Camp Peniel—Take Rt. 219 one mile south of Meyersdale; turn left and follow road for three miles to camp. Phone: (814) 634-5106; Mail: Rt. 3, Box 96A, Meyersdale, PA 15552; Scheduling: Mr. Richard Howard, P.O. Box 226, Armagh, PA 15920; Phone: (814) 446-5703.

Page 18
Gratis
Pastor—William Walk, P.O. Box 8, Gratis, OH 45330
Massillon
Moderator—Mr. William Bowers, 1040 Oakwood, N.E. Massillon, OH 44646
Secretary—Mrs. Janice Heil, 3696 Pinehurst Ave., N.W., Massillon, OH 44646

Page 26 Mrs. Lee Howard's corrected address
Mulvane
Secretary—Mrs. Lee Howard, 505 N. 2nd St., Mulvane, KS 67110

Page 30 Goals
1976—Herbert Gilmer, Mrs. C. Wm. Cole

Page 40
Gibson, Ralph
Phone: (419) 322-8573

Page 47 Brethren Seminary Students add:
PECK, Gerald L.
82 Samaritan Avenue, Apt. A-1
Ashland, OH 44805
Phone: (419) 289-2793

Page 48 Licensed Ministers—Midwest District Omitted:
Gerald L. Peck, Falls City

Page 49 Ashland College Trustees
Term Expiring January 1975
It should be Wade V. Johnson
Term Expiring January 1976
Replacing Woodrow Immel who resigned from the board
Indiana District Robert Kropf P.O. Box 514 Goshen, Ind.
Address changes:
Herbert Schettler .. 70 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, O.
James Preston . 1800 Union Commerce Bldg., Cleveland, O.
Term Expiring January 1977
Replacing Mrs. H. M. Jordan
Central District James R. Black P.O. Box 376, Milledgeville, Ill.
Replacing K. Robert Hahn
At Large Alois F. Dvorak 2435 Wimbleton Rd., Columbus, O.
Replacing Alvin Shifflett
N. California District Alan Schmeidt 21000 A. Tinnin Rd., Manteca, Calif.

SOME READ THE BIBLE: SOME LISTEN TO IT

A harried businessman on his way to an important conference, a homemaker struggling with her housework, a family taking small children on a long car trip have one opportunity in common —a chance to listen to the Bible.

The catchword was "listen," not read.

Because **The Living New Testament** is now available in stereo cassette form.

And since it is, the men, women, and children who haunt the pages of religious history have come alive for today's readers.

The shepherds minding their flocks on the Judean hillsides are not the only ones to hear the angels sing of Jesus birth. Wily King Herod questions more than the wise men about the newborn king and the devious pharisees demanding answers of Jesus speak also to today's listeners.

The counsel of Paul is available for those who listen as he describes the Way for the people of the Way.

"I took those tapes to my office the day they arrived," said the businessman earnestly. "Before I go to important conference I make it a point to listen for about 30 minutes to portions of Paul's letters or from one of the Gospels. They give me spiritual insight to make the correct decisions."

"We've also been delightfully surprised that children have so readily adopted the cassettes," said Dr. Kenneth Taylor, paraphraser of **The Living Bible.**

"Children seem fascinated by the drama, especially if they are acquainted with the scripture at all. And we've had many parents tell us that their children won't get in a car for any kind of trip without having the cassettes and player with them. They nudge each other and say, 'listen to the rooster crow,' or 'listen to the music.' "

Another parent suggested the tapes are particularly appropriate for family devotions. "That way you have a dramatic program that both entertains and inspires," she said.

The tapes also are particularly fine for the elderly who can not read for any length of time but still would like to listen to the Bible being read.

This appealing new way to get acquainted with the Bible through listening rather than reading is the result of months of hard work involving at least 20 professional actors. Some of them, using different voices, played numerous roles in taping the script.

The Living New Testament in cassettes was taped at Domain Agency, Inc., in Wheaton, Ill. Domain Agency has many years of experience in working with Christian broadcasters.

"We live in a day of electronics and it seemed that putting **The Living New Testament** in dramatic form would have great appeal," said Mrs. Faith Main of the agency.

"It all came about because Dr. Kenneth Taylor saw the need to add another dimension in sharing the word with as many people as possible."

Taping was directed by Jim Grant, a writer, actor, and film director who also narrated **The Living New Testament.** The man who portrayed the Apostle Paul in the work was Dick Noel, for six years an announcer for Lowell Thomas.

After the narration was completed—a job requiring nearly six months—sound effects and music were added. Then Grant went back through the entire master tape to add the chapter numbers.

"We recorded without chapter breaks in order to add continuity to the message," said Mrs. Main. "After we finished, Dr. Taylor suggested that adding the chapter numbers would make it easier to locate certain places in the Scriptures. But even those additions were included so carefully that they don't break the thought.

Dr. Taylor said the cassettes were "an exploratory venture in the beginning, but people have responded to them. And we were thinking in terms of people, in terms of bringing the text alive for them when we decided to go ahead with the cassettes.

"After all, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. And faith is what we're trying to encourage with the **Living New Testament** cassettes.

A person interested in listening from the first chapter of Matthew straight through to Revelation 22 can do so in only 20 hours.

The albums consisting of 16 cassette tapes playable on both sides can be obtained from the Brethren Bookstore. The retail price of the album is $59.95 plus $1.00 postage and handling charge.

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LOVE'S SUPREMACY

Adult Bible Study presented at The General Conference of The Brethren Church, Ashland, Ohio August 19, 1973.

by Brian H. Moore

Rev. Brian H. Moore is presently serving as pastor of the Ardmore Brethren Church of South Bend, Indiana; Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the Indiana District Conference Organization; as a member of the National Board of Christian Education serving also as Camp Commission Chairman of this Board.

The thirteenth chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is undoubtedly one of the outstanding passages ever written about anything! I have selected it for this study because of its abiding worth in the Church of Jesus Christ, the family of God. I have also selected it because of its unique situation, that is, the discussion in which it is located. This chapter is like the axis in the balance scale with chapter twelve (the place of spiritual gifts) on one side and chapter fourteen (the problem with a spiritual gift) on the other. As you know, Paul did not make the chapter divisions and thus intended to let this be a flowing, continuous account. So frequently we isolate chapter thirteen and let it stand as an essay on love. It does, no doubt, have qualities about it which enable it to stand alone. But if we would understand it as Paul and the Holy Spirit meant it to be understood we must consider its context. It is not an ode to love; it is part and parcel of a studied argument. It is blazing logic, not romantic poetry (Hobb, The Epistles to the Corinthians, **in. loc.**). Therefore, we must attempt to set this chapter in its context.

Chapter 12 began with a turning of the attention to spiritual matters. Paul dealt with these spiritual matters in some depth, with an emphasis on the many workings of the Spirit to the realization of one harmonious body. The work of the Spirit, rather than being divisive, is actually harmonizing to the church. After spelling this out, Paul makes a transition to a way which is superior in quality to anything he had spoken of thus far. This is the reason 12:31 is included with chapter 13 as a continuation of a thought.

IF THERE IS ANYTHING THIS IS DANGEROUS, IT IS A SUPPOSED SPIRITUALITY WHICH IS NOT TEMPERED BY LOVE

12:31b "And yet I show (point out, make known) to you a way according to excellence (still better)." Still better than what? Still better that the greater gifts, especially prophecy. There is a way of life and conduct far surpassing even the greatest gifts. The contrast here is between **way** and **gifts**, gifts being highly specialized and individualistic and way, a life-style for all no matter how comparatively esteemed or lowly his gift might be. This is the way of love, a life-style characterized by love. There is no more warrant for translating this, "charity" than there is to say "God is charity" or "Greater charity hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

In proving the superior way of love, the apostle approaches the matter from three angles: I. The Priority of Love; II. The Properties of Love; III. The Permanence of Love.

13:1-3 The Priority of Love

Read verses 1-3. If there is anything that is dangerous, it is a supposed spirituality which is not tempered by love. To have gifts, which Paul says all believers have, but not have love is personally and corporately disastrous.

The Corinthian church held up the gift of tongues as being of supreme importance; hence Paul brings this up first. It is possible to be very gifted by the Holy Spirit and yet not have a heart of love. A gift does not make you loving! It appears that the Corinthians had held out this one sign of the Spirit as being the pinnacle of spirituality. If you had this, you had arrived! If you didn't have this outward, mysterious phenomenon, you did not belong to the spiritually elite and thus became the object of scorn. You were going second or third class. As this matter erupted in Corinth, it led to mass confusion; the emphasis was placed so much on ecstatic speech that Paul had to limit the number of participants in it in a given service. Paul is saying that my tongues experience, even if it is of a higher order than really existed in the church (i.e. of angels), without love is useless. He did not say that this particular gift of the Spirit was wrong; he practiced it himself. To the contrary, he defended its proper use and place; yet, if this or any other gift is placed above love in emphasis, it is useless, or even worse, just an irritating noise. The sound I make in ecstatic speech, if my life is not loving and loveable, is no better than the reverberations, the echoes, of brass or the clanging, shrill tones of cymbals. Thus, Paul has isolated the gift the Corinthians had stressed and said that it was inadequate if unaccompanied by love.

Now Paul goes on to isolate gifts which he himself would place as among the greatest, and he says that even these highest gifts are inadequate without love. **Prophecy**—speaking God's Word for a person, situation or group or the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God. Expository preaching of the Bible probably most closely resembles this gift today. Formerly it was by direct revelation, later by the exposing of the revealed will of God in the Scriptures. You may be able to speak forth the Word with power and precision, but if you do not have love qualities, you are nothing. **Full knowledge of mysteries**—insight into the truth of God which is too profound for human ingenuity. If you can take the hidden truth of God and make it plain to others, yet lack love, your gift is to little avail. You are nothing. **All faith**—If you have the mountain-moving kind of faith that Jesus spoke of, faith to see great accomplishments in God's work, yet are without love, you are nothing. **Knowledge**—If you can make God and His truth understandable to people, have perception into His truth, yet do not have love, you are nothing. Note that Paul is saying that if you have the highest gifts with the greatest possible measure, both superlative and exhaustive, (**all** mysteries, **all** knowledge, **all** faith), these without love are nothing at all. If these are highly desirable gifts and qualities, basic and essential to the working of the church, how important love must be! The highest gifts do not in themselves lend any dignity to a person at all! Gifts, even greatest gifts, without love accompanying them are nothing, absolutely nothing!

"IF I DO THE NOBLEST ACT OF SELF DENIAL WITHOUT LOVE, IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING"

Moving on from the highest gifts, Paul shows love's priority by focusing on two acts of self-giving. 1. I may give away all my property (again all, without reservation) bit by bit, doling it all out to care for the needy. 2. I may lay no longer claim to my life, my body. This may include either martyrdom, voluntary self-burning as an indication of self-denial, or branding for slavery. Martyrdom by burning, interestingly enough, was not heard of at this point in history. There were no burnings at the stake at this time in history. Nevertheless, the meaning here is still clear; "if I do the noblest act of self-denial without love, it was all for nothing." It seems inconceivable, yet it is true, that one could do these things without love. I can give away all my property as a philanthropist, yet do it out of desire for recognition or some other intangible reward. Remember, the Pharisees gave alms to be noted of men. I can give my body in self-sacrifice out of a motivation no better than a Japanese kamakazie who would direct his plane into an enemy ship; or a Buddhist who would gasoline himself in protest. If I do apparently loving things without love, I have contradicted myself and I have no profit at all. Love is greater than possessions; it is even greater than human life itself! Love takes priority over every gift and over every good deed. Of course, gifts and deeds **with** love are best, but this was not the Corinthian problem. Neither is it a problem in the church today. Love is the missing ingredient. Paul is desiring **both** love **and** gifts, etc.

13:4-7 II. The Properties of Love

The question that rightfully comes to mind is, "What is this quality like?" How does love reveal itself? The properties of love which ensue in Paul's discussion are concerning love in the abstract, perfect love. He is going to appraise it as a multi-faceted jewel.

There are 8 qualities describing love in its effect on personality. **Patient,** of long temper. Someone has defined this as "that quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish." **Kind**—Not only does it absorb the harshness of another; it returns with kindness. Love goes the second mile; it forgives the 70 x 7. **Not jealous,** not envious or overdesirous. For the Corinthian, it did not look with envy at another's spiritual gift. In 12:15, 16 we find that the foot envies the hand and the ear envies the eye meaning that some felt their gift was not as important as another's. Love does not respond that way to the gifts, abilities or opportunities of others. **Does not brag**—love is not vainglorious, self-promoting. Love does not behave as a wind-bag or a show off. It does not, by its very nature, call attention to itself as a quality. **Not arrogant**—the inner disposition related to the above outward quality. Love does not put on airs, is not arrogantly inflated. It does not think of itself as something of which to be proud. This is a quality which the Corinthians did not possess (4:6, 18; 5:2). **Not rude**—love does not behave dishonorably, disgracefully or indecently. **Not self-centered**—rather love has a self-emptying capacity. This is the real test of love. Much of what goes by the name love today is just the opposite, it is selfishness. **Not touchy**—does not become irritated. Love does not get exasperated. The word 'easily' is not in the original; in fact, it is not in any known manuscript. It is possible that the translators added it to take the pressure off of what love is like. Morgan wrote, "As a matter of fact multitudes of people have gone through life since 1611 (date of King James Version) excusing their evil tempers by saying they are not **easily** provoked. Love is not provoked at all." (**Great Chapters,** p. 252; emphasis mine)

There are seven qualities describing love in its relation to others. **Does not hold grudges**—it does not keep a logbook of offenses to be reckoned with later. Love does not calculatingly consider the evil done to it. "Love, instead of entering evil as a debt in its account-book, voluntarily passes the sponge over what it endures." (Godet) If we are holding something against another, regardless of what it is, in that respect we are short on love. Can any of us say that deeply and thoroughly our slate is clean? **Does not gloat over other's sins.** Conversely, **delights in the truth**—Taking these two together, love does not enjoy wrongdoing but is favorable to that which is right, straight, true, righteous, holy and pure. Love does not shut its eyes to wrongdoing, is not all smooth in the presence of evil, but especially delights in and promotes the good. **Bears without limit**—love protects and preserves by covering with canopy or shield. It throws up a barrier between wrong and

a wrongdoer. It keeps out resentment as a ship keeps out the water or a roof the rain. **Unlimited in faith**—This does not mean that love is gullible or easily deceived; rather, love remains confident, is not suspicious by nature. **Unlimited hope**—love is optimistic by nature. **Unlimited endurance**—love stays behind when others flee; it stands its ground courageously.

LOVE SHALL NEVER BECOME INVALID OR COLLAPSE; IT WILL NEVER CEASE TO HAVE FORCE

At this point it is helpful to remember that the Bible says God **is** love. God, in His very essence, is the embodiment of these qualities in perfect form. Look back over them again and remind yourself that this is a description of the very nature of God and of Jesus Christ His Son. These are the properties of love, the properties of God.

13:8-13 III. The Permance of Love

In this final paragraph the apostle elevates love above everything else; because it is permanent, everlasting and will never be superceded by anything else. This is the force of verse 8. Love shall never become invalid or collapse; it will never cease to have force. As for **prophecies,** they will be one day rendered inoperative; they will be reduced to inactivity; they will become of none effect. The time will come when there will be no place for speaking God's Word and His revelation because we shall all be in the very presence of God. **Tongues-speaking** will stop, they will make a willing cessation, they will stop themselves. There will be no need for personal or corporate edification through this means because everyone will be in His very presence. **Knowledge** will also be abolished because in that day we shall all know as even also we are known. Love will outlast all gifts, the greater as well as the lesser. Therefore, Paul implies, don't pin your hopes and spiritual goals on these temporary things; they at best are passing away and will be finally reduced to inactivity. Love, by contrast, will endure forever.

A question arises from verse 10, "To what does the perfect refer?" There are those who believe that the perfect revelation came when the canon of Scripture was completed; therefore, by this reasoning, tongues among other things were no longer needed after that time. There is a historical decline of tongues parallel to the forming of the New Testament catalogue of books until, of course, our own time when speaking in tongues has again become prominent. But the context would not seem to favor this interpretation. Paul is speaking of a time when partial knowledge shall give way to full, perfect knowledge. He refers to a time when he will break through distorted vision to face-to-face, eyeball-to-eyeball contact with the eternal. Since Paul himself was responsible for the bulk of New Testament writings, it is doubtful if he is referring to the New Testament. It is doubtful if the New Testament fulfills the expectations of which Paul here was writing. It is my opinion that this is a very weak argument against the contemporary use of tongues.

The supremacy of love is further illustrated by two figures. One is the pattern of growth in human life. At the time we were infants we engaged in idle prattle, babbling—"I spoke as a child." We were infant minded, showing the undeveloped exercise of a childish mind. We reasoned or reckoned as infants do. There is even in Paul's description of childhood a hint at growth and progression. But when I grew up I abolished (same word used of knowledge and prophecies in verse 8) these infant characteristics. He does not apply this openly, but it would seem that he is paralleling infancy to the "in part" idea of verse 9. "Manhood" then parallels the "perfect" of verse 10. According to our interpretation then we are still in that infant stage to a degree. Prophecies, tongues, knowledge are part of the childhood stage and shall be until the perfect is come. But love, by implication, is a part of maturity; it will never be laid aside as are these gifts.

The second illustration is that of the distorted vision or reflection, verse 12. At the present time, seeing, perceptive seeing was imperfect and contained only a glimpse of the pure truth and life. "The thought of imperfect seeing is emphasized by the character of the ancient mirror, which was of polished metal, and required constant polishing . . . Corinth was famous for its manufacture of these. . . . The figure of the mirror, illustrating the partial vision of divine things is frequent in rabbinical writings . . ." (excerpts from Vincent's Word Studies, in. loc.). Here again, the thrust is that no matter what our experience or our gift is, it is only a dim reflection of the greater reality which is to come.

Finally, Paul makes one more statement to elevate love to its proper place. Love is not only greater than specialized gifts; it is even greater, surpassing in quality and importance, than other outstanding Christian graces. Love stands above even faith and hope; for faith shall one day give way to sight and hope shall finally be realized. Hope, if it could never be realized, would soon become despair, which is in fact its opposite.

Chapter 14, verse 1a should also be taken along with chapter 13. As a conclusion to this careful exposition on the values, virtues and victories of love, one should pursue love. "Pursue" is the same thought as Paul expressed when he said "I press on toward the mark." "Press on toward the mark" of love. Strenuously pour yourself into attaining to love. Only with passionate devotion and determined effort shall that goal be reached.

This study must inevitably produce within us a sense of failure. If this is how love operates, how far short of that goal we still are! How we must be pursuing lesser ideals and lesser values in life! How content we must be with such lesser things! And yet we thank God for the measure in which we do know its values and properties! We do thank Him and praise Him for the evidence in experience which concurs with these words in this chapter! In this year we are giving our attention to praising the Lord. According to His word in I Corinthians 13, there is no better way to praise Him than by pursuing diligently and with fervor that quality and characteristic which best represents God Himself. "God is Love"—"Praise the Lord!"

World Religious News in Review

RECORD 15,000 STUDENTS CONSIDER MISSIONS AT 10TH I-V CONVENTION

URBANA, Ill. (EP)—The five-day international missionary convention sponsored by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship opened here Dec. 27 with a record registration of 15,000 students for the 10th tri-ennial convention on the campus of the University of Illinois.

Speaking to the theme: "Jesus Christ—Lord of the Universe, Hope of the World," were Samuel Escobar, director of the Inter-Varsity movement in Canada; John R. W. Stott, rector of All Souls Church in London, and honorary chaplain to Her Majesty, the Queen of England; and John A. Alexander, president of Inter-Varisty. Other speakers included Edmund P. Clowney of Westminster Seminary, Phila.; Paul Little, assistant to the president of Inter-Varsity and associate professor at Trinity Seminary; J. Christy Wilson, a Presbyterian missionary to Afghanistan; Gregorio Landero of Colombia; Philip Teng, a Hong Kong pastor; and Samuel Moffett, Presbyterian missionary to Korea.

Four students gave major addresses, including two blacks: Pius Wakatana, a Rhodesian student at Wheaton College on, "Culture and Social Qualifications for Overseas Service; and Russell Witherspoon from Brooklyn College on: "Where Do We Go from Here?" The other student addresses were delivered by Donald Curry, a student of medicine at the University of Calgary on: "What If I Don't Go Overseas?" and William Thomas of Brussells on "The Spiritual Qualifications for Overseas Service."

Elizabeth Elliot Leitch received a standing ovation following her delivery of an address titled, "The Place of Women in World Missions." Her brother, David Howard, served as director of the tri-ennial meeting.

Among the exhibitors scattered throughout the Armory was the popular Intercristo, which matched students by computer with different options among mission boards and schools according to information contained on pre-registration forms. As the delegates arrived, Intercristo directed each to the mission or training institution offering the opportunities sought.

California had the largest delegation with 1,288. The host state, Illinois, was next with 1,283, followed by Missouri, Pennsylvania, New York, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Chartered facilities during the energy crisis were undependable, leaving most students to find their own transportation.

On Dec. 26, a bus carrying I-V staff members skidded and overturned on a rain-slick road 15 miles south of O'Hare Airport, killing William Scadding of Toronto and Sue McClure from Bethlehem, Pa., and injuring others.

The convention was scheduled to end at the close of the year with Communion led by Missionary Samuel Moffett. While saddened by the fatal pre-convention accident, registrants rejoiced in the commitments made during the meeting which is held once in every student generation.

SINGING STAR NOW 'EVANGELIST'

FORT WORTH, Tex. (EP)—Jeanie C. Riley, the mini-skirted singer who zoomed to stardom five years ago with "Harper Valley PTA," talks about her life in show business and tells how God directs that life when she visits the Scrapbook Corner of "Country Crossroads" in February. The radio program, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, is heard on 557 U.S. stations and on 350 more around the globe via the Armed Forces network.

Two years ago, when she was in a hospital suffering from exhaustion, she began reading "The Living Bible," paraphrased by Kenneth Taylor.

"I realized I didn't have the Lord because I'd never really trusted Him," she told "Country Crossroads" co-hosts LeRoy Van Dyke and Bill Mack. "Oh, I believed about Him, but I hadn't put my life into His hands for now and eternity. When I did that everything began to change."

She cites "practical miracles" in the form of answered prayer about patience, calmness, and time. And there have been other changes.

Her mini-skirts have disappeared in favor of modest, yet very feminine attire. She'll drive all night from a singing engagement in order to attend Nashville's Forest Hills Baptist Church with her daughter, Kim.

"I still like to look at the different architectural designs of buildings when I travel but I don't wonder 'who am I, how am I constructed?' anymore. Since I came to know Jesus as my Savior I know that God wants me to witness for Him in my career."

AIR ACADEMY PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUP HEARS A FORMER POW

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP)—"Prayer saved my life," an Air Force pilot who was held prisoner by the North Vietnamese during 1967-68 told more than 400 military men and women at the Air Force Academy here.

Speaking during the academy's annual National Prayer Breakfast, Col. Norris M. Overly, 44, now vice-commander of the Lowry Technical Training Center in Denver, also told his audience: "America is in many ways a troubled land today."

"Today there is a need for inner leadership to promote the social cohesion and moral stamina which this nation must have to survive and do great things," the colonel said.

The former prisoner of war was piloting a B-57 light bomber when he was shot down Sept 15, 1967. He was one of three American POWs released by the North Vietnamese government on February 16, 1968, "as a gesture of goodwill."

BIBLE SOCIETY REPORTS 1,526 'DIALECTS' NOW EXIST

NEW YORK (EP)—Bible Societies and other groups published Scriptures in 27 languages and dialects in 1973, bringing the total "Scripture language count" to 1,526.

Complete books of the Bible were published in 25 languages or dialects, ranging from Achual (spoken in Peru) to Yakurr (spoken in Nigeria). according to a report by the American Bible Society here.

The 26th new language was reported to be "Kewa:West," a dialect spoken in Australia. It was used in a translation of the New Testament.

The Scripture statistics were compiled by the United Bible Societies, a worldwide fellowship of 56 national Bible Societies, one of which is the American Bible Society. The United Bible Societies work in more than 150 countries and territories.

NUNS OUT OF HABIT BARRED FROM N.C. BAPTIST CHURCH

RALEIGH, N.C. (EP)—A singing group of Roman Catholic nuns called "R.S.V.P." was barred from a scheduled appearance in a Baptist church here by the local bishop.

The Rev. Vincent S. Waters denied permission to the nuns from the Medical Mission Sisters Society, based in Philadelphia, because he has a dress code requiring nuns to appear in their habits —traditional religious garb.

The nuns were to have led a three-day workshop on worship, which was cancelled as a result of Bishop Water's decree.

Baptist minister Mel Williams, associate pastor of the church, said the Sisters felt their ministry would be jeopardized if they bucked the local ruling. They discarded their habits in 1968 with approval from Rome.

NEW YORK STATE PREPARING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST CHILDREN OF GOD

ALBANY (EP)—State investigators say members of the Children of God who leave the unusual cult often can't bring themselves to take employment, wake up in terror at night, and harbor other unwanted memories of brainwashing techniques used by the cult to indoctrinate new members.

A 23-page report has been prepared by the Attorney General's Charity Frauds Bureau citing "possible legal action" against the movement in New York State.

State lawyers are proceeding cautiously for fear they might be infringing on freedom of religion. They expressed hopes that the movement will "dry up and blow away" as others have done.

The state says the Children of God seeks to alienate new disciples from "family, school, church and society." In answering charges that premarital sex is condoned, C.O.G. leader David Berg declared: "There is no such thing as premarital sex because sex with the one you love is marriage . . . that's the way it was with Adam and Eve.

DYING FATHER FORMS CLUB FOR INCURABLES

BURLINGTON, Iowa (EP)—Orville Kelly, a 43-year-old father of four young children who is dying of cancer, has formed a club for persons like himself.

"At first I felt sorry for myself," said Kelly, who also invites friends of dying loved ones to join his club. "I held God responsible. Otherwise, why would He let this happen to me?"

Now, Kelly admits, "I ask myself how I could doubt the existence of God—when I hear a child's laughter on a summer evening, or see around me the miracle of life itself."

"Make Today Count" is the name of the new organization. Eighteen people attended the first meeting. There is no structured program, just the opportunity for people to "talk out their grief."

WORLD POPULATION: 3,800,000,000, U.S. GROWTH RATE SLOWED

PENSACOLA, Fla. (EP) — The global population stands at 3,800,000,000, increasing at about 200,000 per day, according to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of West Florida.

Arthur H. Doerr said here that population statistics show the world receives more than 70,000,000 more people each year. The current annual growth rate of the world's population hovers around two per cent, he said.

In a speech delivered before the Pensacola Home Builders Association, Dr. Doerr said world population will double in 35 years. In underdeveloped countries the growth rate is as high as 3.5 per cent per year. The population doubling time for such countries is 20 years.

"The spectre of a rapidly rising world population haunts governments, planners, and economists because of the obvious impact upon available resources and the environment," the educator said.

The National Center for Health Statistics in Washington said this week that the birth rate in the U.S. fell to the lowest level in the nation's history in 1973.

$4.2 MILLION IMPROPERLY INVESTED, NEW YORK METHODISTS TOLD

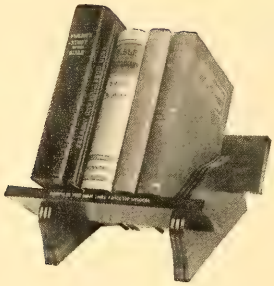
RYE, N.Y. (EP)—More than $4.2 million in funds of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church was improperly invested in loans to faltering businesses, according to a report by the president of the Conference Trustees.

In a letter to lay and clergy members of the 500-congregation Conference, the Rev. Richard Thornberg offered a progress report on steps that have been taken to recover some of the losses and institute procedures to prevent them from happening again. His report came a week after a more general report by Bishop W. Ralph Ward.

Corporate Treasurer Robert W. Preusch had made the investments without obtaining proper authorization, according to a letter Bishop Ward sent out last Fall. Mr. Preusch has since been suspended "for cause."

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The Brethren
EVANGELIST

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I WAS HUNGRY,
and you set going a humanistic
association, and you discussed
my hunger. Thank you.

I WAS IN PRISON,
you sneaked quietly to your chapel
in the quiet neighborhood,
and prayed for my liberation.

I WAS NAKED,
you wondered wasn't that
perhaps immoral?

I WAS ILL,
and you went on your knees
and praised God for your health.

I WAS HOMELESS,
you preached for me. About
God's loving care.

I WAS LONESOME,
and you left me alone
to pray for me.
You seem so holy.
You seem so close to God.
But I am still hungry and lonesome;
I'm freezing!

"Unknown"

APRIL IS "WORLD RELIEF MONTH" IN THE BRETHREN CHURCH

(See Pages 10-16)

Vol. XCVI March 23, 1974 No. 7

The Brethren EVANGELIST

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NOTES and COMMENTS

WHAT IS A SAINT?

"A little child on a summer morning stood in a great Cathedral Church. The sunlight streamed through the beautiful stained glass windows and the figures in them of the servants of God were bright with brilliant color. A little later the question was asked, 'What is a saint?' and the child replied, 'A saint is a person who lets the light shine through.'"

Trinity Brethren Newsletter

"Horse sense needs stable thinking."

"The devil doesn't care how much good we do, so long as we don't do it today."

Hagerstown Newsletter

CONTRADICTION?

His subject was "How To Make A Speech Interesting." I attended with eager anticipation. I wanted to learn how to do it—that's why I made the effort to attend. I did encounter a problem, however, which later made me regret the investment of my time because shortly after he had begun I went to sleep and missed his speech on "How To Make A Speech Interesting."

from LeTourneau Now

"Most people commit the same mistake with God that they do with their friends; they do all the talking!"

Bethlehem Brethren Church Bulletin

A reputation once broken may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep its eye on the crack.

Do you know when the event of the year is?

By the Way

Who Cares?

by Lois Breiner

AMID THE WALL'S profane and clever quips, its garbage stains and splintered bricks, sprawled two words: WHO CARES? The dripping black letters dwarfed neighboring grossities and won a place in my memory as the most poignant piece of graffiti I'd ever seen.

Future trips past the wall revealed attempts for purification with the city's white-wash. But no amount of paint could blot out the bold and haunting inquiry: Who cares?

We Christians say we care. I say I care. But unless our actions accompany said caring, we wax insincere. Talking (and writing) go only so far. I have heard preachers speak in abstractions and generalities about the love of God. Yet speaking of God's love becomes overridden by clanging gongs if not made concrete by our actions.

It's easy for me to write this. Sitting here in my office gives me plenty of time to choose the words best-suited for making an impact or desired effect. But what about back there at that filthy wall, confronted by the scrawled graffiti or its dejected author?

Could I choose my words as carefully? Could I communicate that there is a God who cares when I do not sincerely care? What words can subtly paint my portrait as another Christian afraid to dirty his hands attempting to build a better world?

A phrase seemingly taboo in evangelical circles is "social gospel." The common connotation of this is salvation through one's good works or chalking up brownie points with God. Yet, if we ignore society in our salting of the earth, what is the use of having any seasoning? If not social, then what is our gospel?

It is redemptive, yes; hearts are changed, true. But where does that take us if we stop there? Christians need to exorcise the taboo associated with social gospel. We must become, through actions accompanied by a sincere witness, active answers to the question: Who cares?

Through the reality of our contact with Christ, we have a corner on the market of love, trust and compassion. Nevertheless, we cannot sit forever on our holy hills and expect our sanctified vibrations to penetrate the world.

We publish proclamations such as the "Declaration of Evangelical Social Concern" and sigh with relief, smugly patting our heads in approval. See, we say, evangelicals are concerned. We do care; just read our forthright claims.

Organized purposes and written goals are nice. Very impressive. But can we read our paper parables of good works in answer to the wall's persistent: Who cares?

The words of a fellow-Christian worm their way into my thoughts.

"The way I figure," she stated, "as a Christian, I have it made. Amazing grace, eternal life, the whole bit. God loves me no matter what I do or don't do. Sure, I could knock myself out working for a cause or for somebody I believe in. I could go live in the ghetto and try to understand.

"But nothing would get accomplished or somebody would get shot or I'd get bitten by a rat or I wouldn't do any good. So why bother? In Christ I'm free to choose, so I choose not to."

When I think of her potent honesty, the pharisaical prayer begins: "Thank God that I am not like my friend. . . ." Suddenly, rebuke emerges, crying, "Dear God, forgive me, for I am exactly like my friend." Though I do not condone her thoughts, my actions speak otherwise.

What good does caring do? Not much. Not until we take our care and channel it wherever we feel led. We can act individually or unite for a cause through our church. We pray to gain possession of the Christian life. Next we must pray for the guts to live it.

We can fight injustice, poverty, clean up pornography, protest constructively, boycott discriminating businesses, adopt a person or family; the list is endless. We must give ourselves again and again, doing everything in the name of Christ as a visible definition of His love. Peter Marshall said, "I wonder what would happen if we all agreed to read one of the Gospels until we came to a place that told us to do something, then went out, and only after we had done it . . . begin reading again?"

Love is not love until we give it away. How much longer can we hoard Christ's love? Do we truly care? If so, I dare us to do something about it.

Miss Breiner is assistant Editor of United Brethren Publications and her article is reprinted from "THE UNITED BRETHREN" with permission.

SIGNAL LIGHTS' STORIES FOR APRIL

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

CHILDREN PRAISE JESUS



The friends of Jesus wanted to show Him their love. They wanted to honor Him. They remembered the kindness of Jesus. They remembered His loving ways.

One man said, "I was blind. Jesus came and touched my eyes, and now I can see."

A woman said, "I was lonely and unhappy. Jesus came and talked to me. He showed me how to find happiness."

Even the children remembered the loving-kindness of Jesus. They said, "He is our friend. He is never too busy to play with us."

Jesus loved these people and had helped them in many ways. How could they show their love for Him? How could they honor Him?

It was Passover time in Palestine. All the people were going to Jerusalem to celebrate this great feast. It was a happy time for everyone.

The city of Jerusalem was crowded. People were trying to find a place to stay. Children were running and playing among the crowds of people. Suddenly the people inside the gates of the city heard shouting and singing outside the city gates. Down the road came another crowd of people with a man riding on a donkey.

An old man asked, "Who is it?"

A boy looking far down the road answered, "It is Jesus."

The children shouted, "It is Jesus, our friend."

They took palm branches from the trees. They ran towards Jesus waving the branches and singing, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Jesus is here; Praise God for His Son! Praise God in heaven!"

Jesus was inside the city gates now. The people followed Him into the temple yard. The children were still shouting and singing, "Jesus is here! Praise God for His Son."

A temple leader said to Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

Jesus smiled at the children. "Yes, they are praising Me."

"Tell them to be quiet," demanded the temple leader.

"The Bible says children praise God best of all," answered Jesus.

And He left the temple with the children following Him and still shouting happily, "Jesus is here! Praise God for His Son!"

—Based on Matthew 21:1-17



Memory Scripture: Mark 11:9

JACK MEETS A BULLY

"Wait for me, Jack," called Jose. He ran to catch up with his friend. The two boys continued on their way to school.

"It seems funny," said Jack.

"What does?" asked Jose.

"That we will be going to school in July and August," explained Jack. "Those are vacation months back home."

"There will be holidays," said Jose.

"I know," said Jack.

By this time the boys had reached the school.

"See you in the park after school," said Jack as the boys went to their classrooms.

After school the sidewalk was filled with laughing, shouting, running boys and girls. Many of them headed for the park. When they were still a distance from it they heard guitar music.

Jack smiled.

"Your parents have the loud speaker set up," said Jose.

Jack nodded. Suddenly he fell flat on the sidewalk. A big boy leaning against a tree laughed.

"You tripped him!" shouted Jose. "Are you hurt, Jack?"

"He's an evangelico," declared the bully. "I'll do more than trip him if he doesn't stay away from the rest of the kids."

Jack got up slowly, brushed the dirt from his clothes and examined the scrape on his knee. Then he looked at the boy who had tripped him.

"I know you," he said. "You're Antonio."

"Sure," said the big boy. "And I'm not an evangelico."

"Can't we be friends anyway?" asked Jack.

"Are you crazy?" said Jose. "Antonio just tripped you. Now you're asking him to be your friend!"

"I need lots of friends," answered Jack. "I would like to have a big boy like Antonio for my friend."

Antonio looked at Jack. "You are crazy," he said, "but I think I like you. Where are you going?"

"To the park to hear the music," answered Jack. "Come with us?"

"I like music, but I never heard those songs," said Antonio.

"It's good music," said Jose. "It tells a story—a true story. Come with us."

Jack and Jose each took one of Antonio's hands and slightly tugged at him.

"Oh, all right," he said.

As he walked between the boys he shook his head. Why was he, the neighborhood bully going to the park with two younger boys—one of them an evangelico, at that?

"Oh, well," he thought, "it might be fun. I do like music and I might learn some new songs."

Jack winked at Jose and Jose smiled broadly as they hurried to the park with Antonio. He would hear some good music. He would learn some new songs—just the kind a bully needed to learn.



The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR APRIL

The Generation Gap

The expression "generation gap" is frequently heard and also seen in print today. It is taken to mean that one age group is not supposed to understand the motives, thoughts, words and deeds of another group.

A generation is often spoken of as thirty-three years and the implication is that those over that age do not understand the younger group—especially the teen-agers!

Was it not the same in King Solomon's day? He said: "There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up" (Proverbs 30:11-13).

Certainly circumstances are different in each generation and we need not expect the young people to dress or act as did the older generation. The outward differences, if harped upon, only intend to increase the "gap." It is the heart that the Lord looks upon. It is the heart we should seek to win!

We have learned recently of bold delinquents who went to camp with the motive of distrubing the camp. But their hearts were won by the love of the Lord and of the workers! When they returned, the authorities marvelled to see that the capturing of the heart had accomplished what all their rules and restraints had failed to accomplish.

In Christ's day there were those who were called "a generation of vipers" (Matthew 3:7); "an evil and adulterous generation" (Matthew 12:39); "this wicked generation" (Matthew 12:45); "a faithless and perverse generation" (Matthew 17:17); and a "sinful generation" (Mark 8:38). These Scriptures were rather designating a certain class of people rather than an age group; but all were headed for misery and judgment.



There need be no "generation gap" if we will but listen to the teachings of the Lord! Luke 1:50 tells us: "His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation!"

How delightful for old and young—for all classes—to be part of the "chosen generation" showing forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light! (1 Peter 2:9). Love for our blessed Lord can smooth out many a "gap."

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

ASHLAND, Ohio—The world famous Vienna Choir Boys were featured as the final concert of the 1973-74 Ashland College Artist Series Tuesday March 5 at 8:15 P.M. in the Hugo Young Theatre.

The choir, on its 30th North American tour, presented its traditional three-part program of folk songs, sacred music and the staged comic operetta, "The Jealous Primadonna."

This season's operetta is a humorous behind-the-scenes look at undying love in an opera house, a rarely heard 19th century work by Johann Klerr, especially prepared in a brand new production with the Vienna Choir Boys in full costume.

The first part of the program included sacred works from Palestrina and other early masters from Michael Haydn and Schubert to today.

The remainder of the program featured secular and folk songs and Austrian delights, such as Johann Strauss' Tritsch-Tratsch Polka.

The choir is made up of 22 boys between the ages of eight and fourteen and has been presented on 29 previous tours by impresario Sol Hurok.

One of the outstanding musical attractions of one of the world's most musical cities, the boys have been a prominent feature in Vienna since 1498, when the Hapsburg Emperor Maximilian established the group for the Austrian Court's private religious services. Each year fewer than 100 boys, only ten per cent of the applicants, are admitted to the institution.

Before admission to one of the choirs, students receive two years of training. Each boy is given an academic education in addition to his musical one, and, when his voice changes, is aided by the institution in furthering his education for the career of his choice.

Visitors to Vienna can hear the Choir not only in the baroque Hofmusikkapelle and in St. Stephen's Cathedral but often, in performances requiring children, at the Vienna State Opera. The boys have also become familiar to millions of Americans through the Walt Disney hit movie "Almost Angels," an ABC television special and the Ed Sullivan Show.

OVER 74,000 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

On the Subject Of

Their Own Honesty and That of Public Officials

An overwhelming majority (88 per cent of over 74,000) of America's high school students think public officials are dishonest in some way: while 40 per cent feel that **most** public officials are dishonest in some way, 48 per cent think **many,** but **not most** are dishonest. Only 12 per cent feel that **none** are dishonest.

The survey of how young people regard their own values and those of public officials was conducted among junior and senior high school students by Scholastic's National Institute of Student Opinion through ballots in the January 31st issues of **Junior Scholastic** and **Senior Scholastic** magazines. The results were released today.

When these same students were asked what they would do if they had an opportunity to cheat on an important exam and believed they would not be caught, 45 per cent said they would not cheat in any case, 37 per cent said they didn't know, and only 18 per cent said they would cheat.

On the subject of cheating on income taxes, 48 per cent think it is a serious offense, 33 per cent a moderately serious offense, and only 19 per cent view cheating on income tax as a minor offense.

In a more intimate personal vein, the young people responded with compassion and integrity to the query as to what they would do if they found a friend of theirs was shoplifting. Fifty-seven per cent would try to talk the friend into returning the stolen items, or paying for them and not stealing again. Seven per cent would tell the friend's parents about it. Three per cent would tell the police, and 7 per cent would tell someone at school like a teacher or counselor. Twenty-six per cent said they would do nothing.

Scholastic Magazines, through its National Institute of Student Opinion, conducts four student opinion polls during each school year. This is the third of the 1973-74 school year. Scholastic Magazines, Inc. has regularly polled students on important issues since the founding of NISO in 1943.

From: Sonia Levinthal

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



BARNHART - VAN DUYNE

Miss Sherry Barnhart became the wife of Mr. Kenneth Van Duyne on March 9, 1974 in a ceremony in the First Brethren Church of Gratis, Ohio with Pastors William Walk and Fred Burkey officiating the ceremony.

Sherry is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil L. Barnhart of Germantown, Ohio. She graduated from Ashland College and is presently employed by the National Board of Christian Education and Madison Board of Education teaching Junior High Math. Ken is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Van Duyne of Argos, Indiana. He is presently in his Junior year at Ashland College and employed by the Ohio Board of Christian Education as the Program Director for Camp Bethany.

Sherry is a member of the Gratis Brethren Church and Ken is a member of the Tiosa, Indiana Brethren Church. They are presently active in the Park Street Brethren Church. They will reside at 36 Samaritan Ave., Ashland.

SPAW - BRINER

Lois Briner and Dennis Spaw were united in marriage on February 23, in the sanctuary of the North Manchester Indiana First Brethren Church by Pastor Woodrow A. Immel. Mrs. Spaw is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Briner.

The newlyweds plan to live at 1904 Legoma St., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

* * *

SITES - JEREW

Michael Sites and Lisa Jerew were married on November 5, 1973 in the sanctuary of the First Brethren Church. Michael is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sites, and Lisa is the daughter of Mrs. Thelma Jerew and the late Duane Jerew.

Mike and Lisa have remodeled Mike's Grandfather Shocks' country home and moved in following their wedding.

* * *

CHALFANT - MACFARLAND

Robert Chalfant and Jan MacFarland were united in marriage on January 20th in the North Manchester First Brethren Church by Pastor Woodrow Immel. Mrs. Chalfant's sister, Mrs. Don Drudge, played the piano and her brother Ted was a member of the wedding party.

The young couple are members of this year's graduating class but have completed their required work at the end of the first semester; and both are employed locally.

* * *

DAY - BELLINGER

William E. Day and Sharon Bellinger were united in marriage in a double ring ceremony on February 16th in the North Manchester First Brethren Church by the Pastor Rev. Woodrow Immel.

Sharon is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William O. Bellinger and the granddaughter of Orville Jobson, foreign missionary; and also Mrs. Ruth (Kimmel) Smoker.

Memorials



McKINNEY

Mrs. Mary McKinney, 85, passed away on February 19, 1974 in the Oak Hill Hospital. She was a member of the First Brethren Church of Oak Hill, West Virginia, and the Women's Missionary Society; she was a native of Coalburg.

Services were held in the church on Thursday, February 21st with Rev. William Skeldon, Rev. David Mahoney and Rev. C. S. Donnelly officiating. Burial in High Lawn Memorial Park, Oak Hill.

Surviving are a son Clifton Treadway of Fayetteville; daughters Mrs. George Mae Helton and Mrs. Louise Grablick of Oak Hill; Mrs. Edith Collins of Lincoln Park, Michigan and a stepdaughter Mrs. Edith Coleman of Fayetteville; 6 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Lambert of the First Brethren Church Sergeantsville, New Jersey, celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on March 12.



To Rev. Bradley and Karen Weidenhamer, a son, Evan Ray, December 10, 1973. Bradley is the Ashland Theological Seminary Librarian and serves as Minister of Music in The First Brethren Church, Park Street, Ashland, Ohio.

* * *

A son, Jack La Von III to Rev. Jack and Dodi Oxenrider, born November 13, 1973. Jack is presently serving as the Shipshewanna Retreat Center Coordinator.

* * *

A daughter, Cortney Lynn, born January 10 to Rev. Tom and Kay Hurley. Tom is presently holding the office of Associate District Executive, Crossroads of America Council, Boy Scouts of America.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Sarasota, Florida—8 by baptism



MARCHES ON!

FIFTY YEARS AGO: While on a tour from some of the Central District churches to Johnstown, Rev. C. Y. Yoder stopped by Ardmore, Indiana and spoke to a gathering of former members of his congregation of the Fairview Church held at the home of Glenn Carpenter.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: W. S. Benshoff, pastor, reported that March 13 was the Thirty-ninth anniversary of the dedication of the Meyersdale Brethren Church.

TEN YEARS AGO: Residents of the Brethren Home in Flora, Indiana signed the editorial by Rev. Spencer Gentle pertaining to the "Prayer Amendment" introduced to Congress and mailed it to their congressmen.

Think "WORLD RELIEF" in APRIL

Dear Brethren Believers:

When you read "O, Me Of Little Faith" (financial report in this issue), it won't be difficult to detect our rejoicing over the Brethren financial response for World Relief in 1973.

A TOTAL OF $13,502! This increase of $4,003 over 1972 is excellent.

DO YOU REALIZE HOW MANY MORE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CAN BE AIDED WITH AN INCREASE LIKE THAT?

The articles and reports and pictures in the EVANGELIST tell the story of World Relief in action—a story of Christian stewardship and spiritual ministry that we can all be a part of.

As I think you realize, Brethren World Relief giving is channeled through the WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION of the National Association of Evangelicals. Under this arrangement we are joining with 38,000 other local evangelical churches to help thousands of needy people in many countries—something we could never do by ourselves. WRC reaches to Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, Chad, Bangladesh, Korea, Sudan, Zaire, Nicaragua, Chile, Vietnam, Laos, India.

With the assistance of WRC, we provide the following literature to explain both the great good accomplished with your gifts, and the tremendous needs that are yet unfilled:

MAILED TO EACH CHURCH—(in quantity)

(1) "PEOPLE NEED YOU"—a brochure with pictures explaining the HOW? WHERE? WHY? and WHEN? of WRC work. It also outlines what various amounts of money will accomplish.

(2) OFFERING ENVELOPES—for those churches with a standing order.

BRETHREN EVANGELIST—(Two Issues)

(1) MARCH 23rd—This issue which you hold includes "Married to A Traveling Man," "O, Me Of Little Faith," listing of Visual Aids, "Grass Mats" Story, special reports about Bangladesh, Korea, Chile and Vietnam.

(2) APRIL 6th—The next issue brings you "Christian Loves Cares," Reports from the "Sub-Sahara" Countries, Sewing News, General Conference features, and special reports about Bangladesh, Laos, and A Christian School in Vietnam.

PLEASE TAKE A CLOSE LOOK at all this literature. SUGGEST that a World Relief film be shown IN YOUR CHURCH in the near future.

YOU CAN HELP. Give through your church or, if you are a non-resident member, send a contribution directly to our committee treasurer, Mr. George Kerlin.

Thanks for your help and emphasis and prayers
Signed: Pastor Phil Lersch, for the Brethren
World Relief Committee
(Mrs.) Helen Dickson
George Kerlin
(Mrs.) Aida May Munson
Joe Hanna

MARRIED TO A TRAVELING MAN

A World Relief Story

by Mrs. Everett (Lillian) Graffam



Mrs. Everett S. Graffam

When they marry, most women assume their husbands will be with them except for routine working hours. When a man's work takes him away a great deal and he cannot be home as much as a wife would like, some women feel they are playing second fiddle to a job, and they resent it.

This resentment causes pressures that sometimes threaten to blow the union apart. A recent illustration is Mrs. Martha Mitchell, wife of the former attorney general, who told her John to leave politics or she would leave him. She won. Sometimes a wife doesn't win because the husband prefers his job.

There is no question that separations put a strain on marriage, even in Christian families. Wives of men in full-time Christian service must often share their husbands with other people because that is the nature of their work. For instance, in our case my husband directs a worldwide relief organization. **Last year he was away from home 208 days and two-thirds of that time overseas,** often in dangerous situations.

Women often ask, "How can you stand being left alone so much?" Men sometimes say, "You have my sympathy being married to a man like that!"

While I appreciate the concern, I don't really need sympathy. Long ago I learned that the way of inward peace is not only to acquiesce to the revealed will of God for our lives, but to actually enter in with enthusiam. So I guess the main reason I can stand it is because I want to. I want to see God's work done in our needy world, and if God has called my husband to travel for His sake, I want to help all I can.

Circumstances have strengthened my basic conviction that I am as surely called by God to **stay** as my husband is to **go.** This knowledge dignifies my loneliness (when I have it) with eternal meaning. I am having a part in the fufilling of God's purpose in the world. This is exciting!

And I am not only sharing in God's purposes, but also sharing in my husband's outreach. He feels that when I keep things going in the home and at my desk, when I give moral and spiritual support, when I let him go without making him feel guilty, it is almost as good as being with him. I share in the results of his ministry **in absentia.**

Recently a high USAID official asked me: "How do you feel about Everett being away so much?" I answered: "As a woman I don't particularly like it. But when I feel a little sorry for myself I am reminded that because I let my husband go with my blessing, today perhaps thousands of children will eat who woudn't have, if he were not on the job." This makes the high price of separation worthwhile.

"Isn't it hard to rear children with a father's help so limited?," I'm often asked. Yes, it is. Family life has to be different from the so-called norm, but that doesn't make it abnormal. I must work harder, make more decisions, and help the children form healthy attitudes towards their father. If they hear me say when he is going out the door, "We'll be praying for you," then they know they too are sharing in his ministry.

Women whose children are grown, as are our three, don't have to give in to despair and the rock-chair mentality when left alone. Life can be very exciting and fulfilling as we find new tasks for God or humanity, or learn new skills through continuing education.

Then a husband can return to a serene wife who makes the home a restful sanctuary where he can recoup his emotional and physical energies. She will continue to be an important part of his life. The absences which threaten marriage actually make her a finer, more interesting person—one a husband is eager to get home to.

(First printed in **The Presbyterian Journal,** used by permission.)

Dr. Everett S. Graffam is executive vice-president of the World Relief Commission, the overseas relief agency through which Brethren World Relief Offerings are channeled to help the needy.

"Companions in Compassion"

World Relief in KOREA



Kwang Ju Christian Hospital in Korea (l. to r.) George Doud, WRC overseas administrator; Dr. R. B. Dietrick, director of hospital; Richard Pendell, WRC staff.

Because of greater needs in other parts of the world, the World Relief Commission has transferred its major projects in KOREA (begun 17 years ago) over to Korean Christians. But WRC continues aid to leprosy victims, children at the Inchon School for the Blind (visited by Phil and John Lersch in 1972), and several orphanges including Kwang Than Home (which sent a girls Chorale to the USA last year.

WRC is also cooperating in Korea with Southern Presbyterians at the Kwang Ju Hospital, directed by Dr. R. B. Dietrick. **By providing movable medical and surgical units, the staff will be able to serve four satellite areas of 4 million people.**

Another example of Brethren World Relief dollars doing things! . . . in the name of Jesus Christ.

Special Notice to:
CHURCH TREASURERS
and
INDIVIDUAL DONORS
Please send all contributions for World Relief to:
Mr. George Kerlin, Treasurer
1318 East Douglas
Goshen, Indiana 46526

"Companions in Compassion"

WRC Gives PHYSICAL and SPIRITUAL AID in CHILE

In a Santiago, Chile, suburb, a jealous brawl between a husband and wife resulted in a fire, making 43 persons homeless. The World Relief Commission and their Chilean counterpart agency quickly brought emergency rations and Bibles.

"The people gathered round the truck," writes WRC's Terry Dalke, Director for Chile. "As the Bibles were passed out they exclaimed: 'A Bible! Who are you and why are you giving us these things?'

"We explained that American and Chilean Christians, out of Christian love and concern, wanted to help them. They were deeply touched and grateful."

One man who lost his house had had a library of over 300 books, unusual for the average Chilean. He was able to save just one book—his Bible.

The slogan of the World Relief Commission is "Food for the body and Food for the soul."

This is another example of Brethren World Relief Dollars used wisely.

"Companions in Compassion"

WRC Assists Survivors of Typhoon Sarah in VIETNAM

By telephone communication from Vietnam on November 15, 1973, the World Relief Commission learned that Typhoon Sarah devastated three provinces with water 18 feet above flood stage. Over 200,000 people were homeless.

WRC, through their counterpart agency, the Christian Youth Social Service, immediately air shipped blankets and canned food to Quang Nam Province (includes DaNang), the emergency area assigned to WRC by the Government of South Vietnam.

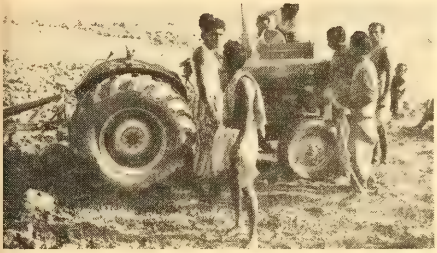
The Commission allotted $12,000 to this relief project to provide a thousand blankets, rice, and 15,600 lbs. of flour from which CYSS baked French-style loaves of bread. These commodities were trucked to the homeless people. Where trucks could not get through, the province chief and the Vietnam Navy provided helicopters and boats.

CYSS has dispatched a team of 25 relief workers, including two doctors. All CYSS personnel are evangelicals and bring a Gospel witness in some form to those they help.

Another example of Brethren World Relief dollars at work! . . . in the name of Jesus Christ.

"Companions in Compassion"

World Relief Projects in BANGLADESH



Tractor provided by WRC to Bengalis to increase food production in Bangladesh.

"Golden Bengal" is still "bleeding Bangladesh" as they begin their third year of freedom. They need continuing help, as the annual income averages only $62.00.

WRC will continue emergency feeding, clothing, medical care and housing. Long-range self-help programs have also been initiated.

Food production will be accelerated under a one-time grant from USAID. WRC is administering an agricultural project caring for 10,000 returned refugees and other war-affected people at Dacope Thana in Khulna District, under supervision of Mr. Paul Munshi, a Bengali Christian.

The Commission will provide technical assistance, rice and vegetable seed, fertilizer, irrigation pumps and fuel; and establish several co-operatives and training centers.

New power tillers and a rice-seed bank will help restore unused land. A family may withdraw seed-rice sufficient to plant a third of an acre. This family will grow its own food, set aside seed grain, and repay the seed bank. In an economy based almost entirely on rice, this can make the difference between life and death by starvation.

Small businesses are producing grass mats from 6-foot-tall reeds. (See story and picture elsewhere in this issue of the **Evangelist**.)

"Under-Age-5" Clinics, caring for 6,000 undernourished children, are **funded soley by WRC.** Personnel at the Chandragona Christian Hospital, a facility of the British Baptists, will give a child a bed, food, and treatment for $3.00 a month.

Giving hope to women is the main purpose of the co-operative effort of WRC and Assemblies of God at the Chittagong Women's Rehabilitation Center. Widows, and others, tragic victims of the violence of civil war, are given a chance. Classes are taught in hand and machine sewing, knitting, embroidery, baby care, hygiene and family planning.

Education, both Christian and academic, has been given a boost. Missionaries report good response to their Bible correspondence courses. And in a student-to-student communication, Wheaton College has sent a large shipment of books to Jahangirnagar University in Dacca, to supplement the books WRC has already given to rebuild the library.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BRETHREN WORLD RELIEF DOLLARS PRODUCING RESULTS.

"Companions in Compassion"

"GRASSMAT RELIEF" of WRC Aids Economic Recovery in BANGLADESH



Grass Mats—a valuable commodity in Bangladesh. Read about it here!

A revolving fund established by the World Relief Commission encourages destitute farmers in the Khulna District of Bangladesh not only to cut the tall reeds in preparation for planting high-yield rice, but to use the grass to weave mats.

The Commission pays the farmers to clear the land, plant the rice, weave the mats, and then buys the mats and uses them for house sidings or sleeping mats for refugees. Other voluntary agencies have ordered thousands of these mats also, for their own relief programs.

WRC's agricultural development project, covering 2,000 acres and experimentation with "miracle rice," is managed by Christian Bengalis.

Mr. Fred Gregory, WRC's director for Bangladesh, says that "while this is only a small part of WRC's assistance in Bangladesh, it is literally a life-and-death matter to the farmers. Sharing the love of Christ has to be put into very practical terms in a country like this where most people have so very little." WRC projects a spiritual ministry along with material aid.

This is another example of Brethren World Relief dollars working in practical ways.

O, ME OF LITTLE FAITH

One year ago, in the special World Relief issue of **The Brethren Evangelist,** I wrote the following:

Brethren gave more money to World Relief in 1972 than any year to date. In fact, $1,700 more than in 1971.

This kind of growing interest and concern are not only good for the spirit of our church; it also means that additional hundreds of people in great need will reveive some relief from their oppression. . . .

What is a reasonable goal for 1973? $2,001 more than last year, when we increased $1,700? A $2,001 increase would bring the 1973 total to an even $11,500. Let's give it a try . . . do without some things . . . allow your heart to ache a little . . . **we'll make it!!!**

AND BOY! DID WE EVER MAKE IT!! WE BRETHREN OPENED UP OUR HEARTS AND CONCERN TO GIVE A TOTAL OF $13,502 FOR WORLD RELIEF. THAT'S 4,003 MORE DOLLARS THAN IN 1972.

Thanks be to God for **supplying** . . . and to you, Brethren, for **responding** to need.

Do you wonder where that extra money came from? Here it is:

$4,911	The total increased giving by 55 churches.
-1,229	The total decreased giving in 28 churches.
$3,682	The net gain in the church offerings.
+ 300	The total increased giving from individuals.
+ 21	The increase in the Conference Soup Supper profit.
$4,003	TOTAL INCREASE FOR 1973

A look at our church's participation in World Relief is a picture of growth. Just 7½ years ago our organized giving was "zilch" (or "zip" if you prefer). But the response has grown every year since then, as the following comparison indicates:

Year	Churches	Individuals	Receipts
1965	0	0	0
1966-67	26	5	$1,546
1967-68	49	5	$4,630
1968-69	65	18	$6,363
1969-70	74	15	$7,316
1971	81	17	$7,725
1972	82	14	$9,499
1973	75	10	$13,502
7½ Years' Total			$50,581
1974	??	??	??

In addition to the $13,502 reported above for 1973, **a total of $1,210 was received from 16 churches during the first 12 days of January, 1974.**

SPECIAL DISASTER APPEALS were still in effect during the Spring of 1973 and Brethren responded. $315 came in designated for **Bangladesh,** and $240 arrived for **Managua.**

THREE CHURCHES began giving to World Relief for the **first time** in 1973. A "tip of the hat" to:

Center Chapel SMM (Indiana)
Massillon (Ohio)
Oakville (Indiana)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION also goes to these 12 churches for their sizeable gifts during 1973 —all $300 or more:

Pleasant Hill (Ohio)	$729.10
North Liberty (Indiana)	$727.58
West Alexandria (Ohio)	$625.00
Jefferson (Indiana)	$594.85
Ashland, Park Street (Ohio)	$592.49
Johnstown III (Pennsylvania)	$525.00
Louisville (Ohio)	$432.43
South Bend (Indiana)	$400.00
Sarasota (Florida)	$389.11
Smithville (Ohio)	$360.19
Bryan (Ohio)	$331.00
Waterloo (Iowa)	$300.00

THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES are also mentioned here because the gifts of each totaled $200 or more during 1973.

Gretna (Ohio)	$293.78
St. James (Maryland)	$271.16
New Lebanon (Ohio)	$270.00
Gratis (Ohio)	$265.00
Dayton (Ohio)	$253.00
Roann (Indiana)	$250.00
Corinth (Indiana)	$216.85
Johnstown II (Pennsylvania)	$212.00
Masontown (Pennsylvania)	$200.00
Nappanee (Iniana)	$200.00

As a denomination, we still face the fact that a little over **one-third of our churches (45) did not contribute** to World Relief at all through the World Relief Committee during the calendar year of 1973. This is a few more churches than in 1972, so it becomes a matter for genuine concern for all of us.

BUT THE GIFTS OF 75 CHURCHES are what made possible the $4,003 increase last year. Here is the complete giving tally for 1973.

Southeast District	
Bethlehem	
Chandon	
Cumberland	$17.00
Dunraven	
Gatewood	
Haddix	
Hagerstown	150.00
Kimsey Run	
Krypton	22.50
Liberty	20.00
Linwood	25.00
Lost Creek	
Mathias	70.00
Maurertown	158.64
Meadowbranch	
Mt. Olive	188.61
Oak Hill	25.00
Rowdy	
St. James	271.16

St. Luke	97.22
Washington	130.00
Pennsylvania District	
Berlin	
Brush Valley	$150.52
Calvary	
Cameron	
Fairless Hills-Levittown	25.00
Highland	75.00
Johnstown II	212.00
Johnstown III	525.00
Masontown	200.00
Meyersdale	
Mt. Olivet	39.00
Mt. Pleasant	
Pittsburgh	60.00
Quiet Dell	
Raystown	
Sergeantsville	
Valley (Jones Mills)	40.00
Vandergrift	33.00
Vinco	186.75
Waynesboro	193.95
White Dale	50.00
Ohio District	
Akron	
Ashland (Park Street)	$592.49
Canton	9.00
Columbus	35.00
Dayton	253.00
Fremont	20.00
Garber (Ashland)	85.00
Glenford	
Gratis	265.00
Gretna	293.78
Louisville	432.43
Mansfield	
Massillon	10.00
Newark	42.00
New Lebanon	270.00
North Georgetown	
Pleasant Hill	729.10
Smithville	360.19
West Alexandria	625.00
Williamstown	
Indiana District	
Ardmore	
Brighton	$50.00
Bryan	331.00
Burlington	77.00
Center Chapel	25.00
College Corner	43.84
Corinth	216.85
County Line	106.30
Denver	69.00
Dutchtown	
Elkhart	175.00
Flora	35.00
Fort Wayne	
Goshen	125.00
Huntington	
Jefferson	594.85
Kokomo	90.00
Loree	
Marion	
Matteson	
Mexico	25.00
Milford	71.25
Mishawaka	
Muncie	38.10
Nappanee	200.00
New Paris	99.40
North Liberty	727.58
North Manchester	
Oakville	50.00
Peru	
Roann	250.00
Roanoke	161.00
Shipshewana	
South Bend	400.00
Teegarden	185.00
Tiosa	79.25
Wabash	
Warsaw	
Winding Waters	
Central District	
Cedar Falls	$35.46
Cerro Gordo	61.03
Lanark	40.00
Milledgeville	140.22
Udell	
Waterloo	300.00
Midwest District	
Carleton	
Cheyenne	
Derby	
Falls City	$25.00
Fort Scott	
Morrill	
Mulvane	
California District	
Lathrop	
Manteca	$100.00
Stockton	
Southwest District	
Papago Park	$53.32
Tucson	
Florida Churches	
Sarasota	$389.11
St. Petersburg	80.75
Total Church Offerings	$12,437.65
Individual's Gifts	860.00
Soup Supper Profit	204.30
1973 Grand Total	$13,501.95

Now I'm on the spot! Last year I **underestimated** our giving capabilities for World Relief . . . and was pleasantly overjoyed at the results. This year if I get carried away and **overestimate** what we Brethren will do in 1974 . . . and we don't reach the goal . . . then we'll feel defeated. But on the other hand, if we don't face a challenge. . . .

I've got an idea! Read carefully the World Relief articles in this **Evangelist** and the next (April 6th). Allow the plight of the underprivileged to grasp a portion of your "sensitivity."

Evaluate the gap between the abundance of most of us and the great needs of most of them. Then I can leave the motivation for giving between you and the bidding of God (which is where it belongs to begin with).

"Let's give it a try . . . do without some things . . . allow your heart to ache a little . . . we'll make it!!!"

Pastor Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee

World Relief VISUAL AIDS Available . . .

For Use Throughout The Year

From Pastor Phil Lersch
6301 56th Avenue, North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

"SLIDE PICTURES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA"—This set of 82 color-slides, with a 30-minute cassette tape-recorded narration, depicts what Phil and John Lersch experienced in 1972 on their World Relief Tour of six S.E. Asian countries. The information is still typical of the WRC program there. The two sets available will be scheduled according to the first requests received. Please give alternate dates. No charge, except return postage.

From World Relief Commission
P.O. Box 44
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania 19481

"BANGLADESH"—16mm sound, full color, 22 minutes. This film is a pictorial reflection of some of the events and tragedies that accompanied the Pakistani-India War. It also reflects the personal triumphs that are being accomplished daily through the help of concerned Evangelicals.

"A CHANCE TO LIVE"—16mm, sound, full color, 21 minutes. About life at Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital in Vietnam. Also shown are other activities of the World Relief Commission in this war-torn land. This is "must" viewing for everyone interested in the physical and spiritual welfare of our children overseas.

"THE MANY FACES OF VIETNAM"—16mm sound, full color, 25 minutes. Dealing with both the cultural and personal aspects of the Vietnamese people, this film reflects an insight on the Vietnamese people rarely seen or understood through television and print. Skillful blending of film from the U.S. Marine Corps and WRC staff makes this one of the most informative films on exactly how the Vietnamese people once lived and how they lived during the war.

"THIS IS HOW IT IS!"—35mm film strip, full color, 30 minutes. The story of the activities of the World Relief Commission in all parts of the world. Filmstrip is available with a cassette tape recording or a printed transcript for individual speaker presentation about WRC activities.

(Note: Although the WRC literature mentions the need for a "free will offering" for the use of these films, Brethren Churches are asked to send their offerings or budgeted contribution to Mr. George Kerlin, Treasurer, World Relief Committee, 1318 East Douglas, Goshen, Indiana 46526.)

World Religious News in Review

ARMSTRONG SECT ROCKED BY SCANDAL CHARGES, RESIGNATIONS

PASADENA, Calif. (EP)—Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of the Worldwide Church of God here, has fired 20 ministers, but two vice presidents are keeping alive charges of misconduct and objectionable opulence by Armstrong and his son, Garner Ted.

David L. Antion, former director of church administration, and Albert J. Portune, former director of evangelism campaigns for the Armstrongs, submitted resignations that were quickly accepted as Armstrong senior seeks to head off a widespread revolt among the 85,000 members of the multi-million-dollar church. Six ministers earlier signed a statement which brought to public attention schism which apparently had been long-standing.

SOLZHENITSYN'S EXILE SEEN AS RESPONSE TO WORLD OPINION

NEW YORK (EP)—Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference on Christians and Jews, in a statement on the arrest and subsequent exile of Soviet author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, has called for a "detente of the spirit" which recognizes the human rights of all people.

Declaring that the Nobel Prize-winning writer has become "a symbol of violated human rights," Dr. Hyatt said his arrest "shocked and revolted men and women of good will throughout the United States," and his exile "can only be interpreted as the Soviet response to outraged world opinion."

Solzhenitsyn is currently in West Germany after being held in Moscow overnight following his arrest at home.

CHURCH MEMBERS BURN BOOKS ON OCCULT, EXORCISM

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. (EP)—Approximately 40 books on subjects of the occult, including the popular novel "The Exorcist," went up in smoke as youthful members of the Bethel Assembly of God here held a book-burning ceremony around a charcoal grill.

Some 100 people watched as the books were destroyed by young people who admitted they were disturbed by Satan's effort to usurp God's place in the world.

KUHLMAN SEES 'THE EXORCIST' AS OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRISTIAN WITNESS

LOS ANGELES (EP)—In the book and movie versions of "The Exorcist," Satan went a little too far and gave the Christian church its greatest opportunity to offer hope to searching mankind.

So states Evangelist Kathryn Kuhlman, a popular speaker in Southern California known for her faith healing ministries.

"I'm not approving the book or the picture," says the evangelist whose base is in Pittsburgh, Pa. "But I feel in this instance Satan went a little too far. Therefore, let Christians now take it up and use it for the glory of God."

Miss Kuhlman said the church should present the alternative of hope. She says a "tremendous fear has struck our young people," and urges Christian leaders to "give these young people the spiritual help they need and let them see that there is no cause for fear and that they can find peace by making a decision for Christ."

ORDINATION STATUS A QUESTION FOR STUDENTS IN 'EXILE'

ST LOUIS (EP)—Students attending classes at the Joint Project for Theological Education, also known as "Concordia Seminary in Exile," may face problems in being ordained as pastors or vicars of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

Dr. Martin Scharlemann, acting president of the seminary, has sent a letter to the more than 350 students who have been attending classes at the "seminary in exile" informing them that only students attending classes on the campus of Concordia Seminary would be eligible for placement after graduation.

According to the Handbook of the Missouri Synod, pastors and vicars have to be certified by one of the theological faculties of the Synod. Since the professors who are teaching classes at the "seminary in exile" have been dismissed by the Concordia Board of Control, they are no longer considered a Synodical faculty, although their classes are being taught at accredited theological schools.

The "seminary in exile" has been holding classes on the campuses of Jesuit-maintained St. Louis School of Divinity and Eden Seminary, a United Church of Christ school. The Concordia professors have been given temporary faculty status at St. Louis and Eden, so that their students will continue to attend accredited courses.

MISSIONARY NEWS

THEY HEAR US, BUT WE DO NOT HEAR THEM!



In a recent letter from Wycliffe Bible Translators, responding to the Missionary Board check in support of Brethren Missionary-Translator Jerry Grieve, there was shared an experience of Ian Gardner, a British Translator working among the Abua people of Nigeria.

Ian was traveling by canoe on the Orashi River to Odual, where 8,000 people spoke a language related to Abua. 'Do the Odual people understand Abuan?' Ian asked his pilot as they glided through the thick jungle.

"'They hear us, but we do not hear them!" he replied.

"Is there anyone who knows how to write down your language?" Ian asked.

"Yes, there is one old man called Ezekiel," he answered. "He lives in the village we are going to. He has written books."

"What sort of books?" Ian asked hopefully but the man did not know.

Rounding a bend in the river, they met a canoe traveling in the opposite direction. "This is the man I was telling you about," the boatman said. "This is Ezekiel, the man who has written books."

As Ian and Ezekiel began to converse in Abuan, Ezekiel said, "I thank God you are coming to my village. I have written down Matthew, Mark, and part of Luke's Gospel in my Odual language."

At Ezekiel's house Ian was shown two imposing hardback exercise books containing handwritten translations of the Gospels and church liturgy. More than a century ago, the Niger Mission had been founded under national leadership with a strong emphasis on the need for vernacular translations of the Bible—and here was this man, a lay leader of the same church, who without outside encouragement had been busy at this very task.

They began to compare the two translations and the two languages. They sounded very different. Could the people understand the Abuan translation, Ian inquired. Ezekiel could. He had been to school in Abua. But the majority could not.

"It would be good if people could have copies of your translation," Ian said.

"They wouldn't be able to read them," Ezekiel said sadly. "If they had primers, then they would be able to read. I wanted to write a primer for my people, but I was told not to. They said that the headmaster of the school should do it, but he has not done it."

Ian visited two village schools and heard the same story. "We need primers, sir, in our own language. We cannot use the Abuan primers. The words are too different."

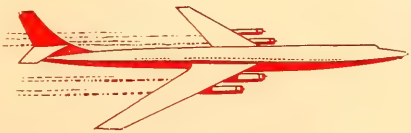
"Why don't you make primers yourselves?" Ian asked.

"We cannot write down our own language," they said. "Ezekiel has done it, but no one else."

Your gifts to Brethren World Missions help support Jerry and Cheryl Grieve as they work in translating the gospel into the Kilba language with a Kilba translator and as they write a primer for the Kilba to learn to read. Your gifts have also supported John Guli as he has translated the New Testament into the Higi language to be used in conjunction with the Higi primer written by Wycliffe Translator Roger Mohrland and the literacy program started by missionary Larry Bolinger. Many can now have the good news in their own language through your support.

MISSIONARIES ARRIVING

MISSIONARIES ARRIVING



The Jerry Grieves will be arriving in the United States in mid-April and will be on a furlough of only three months with limited deputation in the west and mid-west areas of the country. Contacts should be made through the office of the Missionary Board.

The Richard Winfields will be arriving in the United States on March 15, 1974 for a one year furlough and will be residing in the Missionary Home in Ashland. Churches interested in having the Winfields for deputation should contact the office of the Missionary Board, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

The Prasantha Kumars will be arriving in the United States on April 4, 1974 and will be doing extensive deputation for a three month period. Final arrangements are now being completed and soon we will publish a list of these meetings so that you might plan to hear them when in your area.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOME AND WORLD MISSIONS

January 1, 1973 - December 31, 1973

	Home Missions	World Missions
SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT		
Bethlehem	$ 460	$3,852
Chandon	836	872
Cumberland	8	21
Gatewood	-0-	190
Haddix	69	69
Hagerstown	2,857	3,107
Kimsey Run	100	160
Liberty	45	15
Linwood	475	832
Lost Creek	150	246
Mathias	160	205
Maurertown	456	517
Mt. Olive	217	1,457
Oak Hill	1,187	1,277
Rowdy	-0-	4
St. James	2,202	2,956
St. Luke	-0-	26
Washington	1,946	2,683
PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT		
Berlin	1,943	4,139
Brush Valley	38	462
Calvary	-0-	-0-
Cameron	17	34
Conemaugh	250	50
Fairless Hills - Levittown	67	400
Highland	188	1,273
Johnstown First	336	660
Johnstown Second	290	657
Johnstown Third	2,030	1,656
Masontown	303	2,248
Main Street - Meyersdale	120	100
Mt. Olivet	40	148
Mt. Pleasant	-0-	-0-
Pittsbugh	156	603
Pleasant View (Vandergrift)	1,766	6,750
Quiet Dell	-0-	-0-
Raystown	25	55
Sergeantsville	411	125
Valley (Jones Mills)	63	63
Vinco	6,082	5,954
Wayne Heights (Waynesboro)	494	365
White Dale	111	78
OHIO DISTRICT		
Columbus (Cooperative	110	160
Firestone Park (Akron)	121	145
Fremont	533	435
Garber (Ashland)	-0-	112
Glenford	22	60
Gratis	1,314	1,045
Gretna	1,273	1,751
Hillcrest (Dayton)	2,880	3,036
Louisville	2,129	3,709
Massillon	100	125
Newark	210	315
New Lebanon	1,655	8,316
North Georgetown	234	275
Park Street (Ashland)	1,850	7,667
Pleasant Hill	659	2,548
Smithville	3,381	3,247
Trinity (Canton)	2,315	3,370
Walcrest (Mansfield)	418	413
West Alexandria	775	1,790
Williamstown	201	430
INDIANA DISTRICT		
Ardmore	599	871
Brighton Chapel	365	115
Bryan	1,260	3,105
Burlington	1,701	1,884
Center Chapel	221	53
College Corner	89	268
Corinth	281	569
County Line	188	505
Crestwood (Ft. Wayne)	10	-0-
Denver	47	66
Dutchtown	4	182
Elkhart	2,324	4,094
Flora	1,311	1,668
Goshen	3,068	3,153
Huntington	5	205
Jefferson	545	2,020
Kokomo	-0-	258
Loree	2,375	4,542
Marion	-0-	-0-
Matteson	5	5
Mexico	857	466
Milford	638	894
Mishawaka	34	116
Muncie	152	247
Nappanee	4,951	7,386
New Paris	2,798	3,886
North Liberty	1,824	1,625
North Manchester	2,808	3,601
Oakville	965	1,260
Peru	480	751
Roann	710	2,297
South Bend	1,532	1,673
Teegarden	100	210
Tiosa	1,077	1,439
Wabash	744	62
Warsaw	930	1,241
Winding Waters (Elkhart)	300	300
CENTRAL DISTRICT		
Cedar Falls	423	438
Cerro Gordo	92	153
Lanark	679	1,848
Milledgeville	3,489	4,683
Udell	390	526
Waterloo	3,466	3,182
MIDWEST DISTRICT		
Carleton	10	10
Cheyenne	139	47
Derby	5	15
Falls City	557	400
Fort Scott	-0-	67
Morrill	23	30
Mulvane	-0-	51

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT		
Papago Park	876	1,085
Tucson	1,826	1,450
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT		
Lathrop	857	1,707
Manteca	1,810	3,689
Stockton	20	50
FLORIDA CHURCHES		
Bradenton	-0-	-0-
St. Petersburg	283	407
Sarasota	5,316	3,715

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



ABOUT LEARNING CENTERS (Part 1)

Most of the Brethren House ministry is set in a LEARNING CENTER environment. In fact, Brethren House itself is a Worship and Learning Center.

This is the best approach at this time for our work and ministry here in St. Petersburg. And, although it may not be the ideal setting for Christian Education and Mission everywhere, we are finding that other well-established churches are welcoming LEARNING CENTERS as an alternative to their usual teaching programs. This is how we suggest its consideration—as a possible alternative to bring a new approach to existing church programs and activities. Each church adapting as it needs to.

Several churches in St. Petersburg and other parts of Florida have invited us to lead LEARNING CENTER WORKSHOPS for their teachers and children's workers this Spring. In addition to sharing ideas (by actually doing things) about materials, equipment, and how to design a LEARNING CENTER, we also attempt an explanation of the assumptions upon which this approach is founded.

Quite simply, A CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER is a "Come and Discover Place!"

But it's very difficult to describe clearly a CHILDREN'S LEARNING CENTER, because each one is shaped by those people involved in leadership and according to the needs and interests of the children participating. There can be no set plan of operation for all situations.

This is as it should be, for one value of the LEARNING CENTER approach is that individual children are recognized as unique by allowing each one to learn through his own discoveries and proceed according to his own interests and rate of progress. **Each child needs to be considered as the special person he is, not just "a part of the herd."**

When the Brethren House staff sets up a LEARNING CENTER, it is designed according to some basic assumptions. Basic assumptions (1) About Children; (2) About Learning; and (3) About Learning Centers.

This three-part report begins this time by listing some

Basic Assumptions About Children

- **Each child is unique in his ability, his background, and his learning style.
- **Only when each child is able to discover his unique gift from God and is able to use it for God's purposes will he be happy.
- **Every child needs to respond to God's message and love, expressed clearly in Jesus Christ. God, as the great "individualizer," requires this response individually.
- **Many children today need adult attention and affection as part of their discipline and guidance.
- **Personal relationships between the children and adults are very special and should develop naturally and sincerely.

One of the purposes of the LEARNING CENTER openness is to create an environment and freedom of activity to allow these needs of children to be met to the fullest extent possible. Because each child is different, he requires opportunities to learn in his own way. A LEARNING CENTER takes these assumptions seriously and attempts to allow meaningful things to happen.

(Next—Basic Assumptions About Learning.)

—Phil

LEARNING CENTER RESOURCES

60-Minute Tape Recording and Guide Sheets: ($2.50 for rental; $4.50 for purchase). Explains the Learning Center "philosophy" of Brethren House, along with a floor plan and many specific examples of teaching tools and approaches. Listeners work through the tape on the Guide Sheet. Be sure to request one Guide Sheet for each listener!

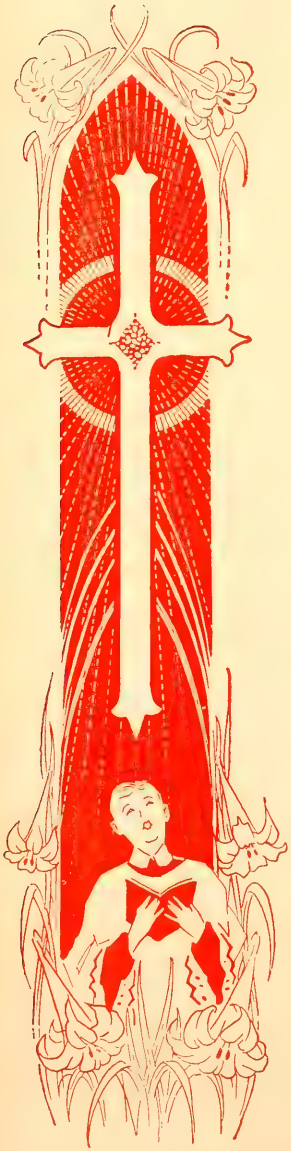
Learning Center Slides and Taped Narration (23 Minutes): ($2.50 for rental). Using colored slide-pictures, primarily of the 1973 General Conference Children's Learning Center, the B. H. staff describes the activities there and discusses several basic Learning Center concepts—plus some practical suggestions for getting a Learning Center started. Designed for Teacher Training & general information. Be sure to give a showing date and an alternate date when ordering.

Order these resources from:
Brethren House
6301 56th Avenue, N.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

MV-P312 Super 8 motion picture with taped narration: of the Learning Center at General Conference in 1972 showing many of the materials and methods used.

SL-P309 COME AND SEE slides and taped narration: about Brethren House itself in St. Petersburg.

Order these resources by number and free of charge from:
Missionary Board of the Brethren Church
530 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805





WHEN COMETH THE END

I'll tell you a story perhaps you don't know,
I didn't, till this Easter Day.
I thought that the day when "cometh the end,"
First, homage to Christ we would pay,
But it seems that the Son also himself
Shall be subject to Father once more,
Once the task is completed—the Kingdom surrendered,
We worship God **first,** as before.
However, their essential equality remains
So Father, Son and Holy Ghost are the same,
Yet the ruler in heaven is God once again,
We won't know the day—or just where or just when.
Subject to the Father at His first advent
To effect eternal redemption for me,
Subject to the Father the second time now
The same relationship again, don't you see?
Now, that was the story so new to my ears,
Though I study God's Word every day,
There's always so much more to learn, it appears,
As we listen, study and pray.

Helen Barnhart

I Corinthians 15:28—"And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

From Collection "Thou Art My God"
Copyright, Helen Barnhart 1973





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The Brethren
EVANGELIST



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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

The March 23rd "World Relief Month" issue carried a few articles emphasizing the theme "Companions in Compassion." As we read and listen to our daily news reports, especially pertaining to the high cost of food, clothing and shelter, instead of our thoughts being filled with complaints let us turn them to compassion as we see and read how millions are not able to have any food, shelter or clothing. Is not this the essence of Christ's greatest commandment? (EDITOR'S NOTE)

**Not what we gain
but what we give,
Measures the worth
of the life we live.**

RIGHT ON ISAIAH!

The kind of fast I want is that you stop oppressing those who work for you and treat them fairly and give them what they earn.

I want you to share your food with the hungry and bring right into your own homes those who are helpless, poor and destitute. Clothe those who are cold and don't hide from relatives who need your help.

If you do these things, God will shed his own glorious light upon you. He will heal you; your godliness will lead you forward, and goodness will be a shield before you, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind. . . .

Feed the hungry! Help those in trouble! Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you shall be as bright as day.

(Isaiah 58:6-10, Living Bible)



IN THE SPRINGTIME OF THE YEAR



It is a lovely time of year,
When winter's gone and spring is here.
Brave little crocus peep their heads,
Out of their cold, dark, winter beds.
Cheery robins now appear,
It is the springtime of the year.
Squirrels playing on the lawn
Reminding us that winter's gone.
We can feel the gentle breeze
And hear the droning of the bees.
And we like the gentle rain
Sliding down our window pane.
We are glad for sun and showers.
Bringing pretty early flowers.
All these things God sends our way
To remind us of that first Easter Day,
When Christ arose from the grave
And to all the world new hope He gave.
Think now of the crown they made Him wear.
And of the heavy cross He had to bear.
Christ suffered much for you and me,
As He hung there on the tree.
And while He lay there in the tomb
All the world was full of gloom.
When Mary came at break of day,
She found the stone was rolled away.
The tomb was empty, the body gone.
Christ had arose in the early morn.
He is risen! As He said.
He is alive! He is not dead!

Florence Roby





MISSIONARY NEWS

OPERATION FRIENDSHIP

by Kenneth L. Solomon

Matthew 13:38—"THE FIELD IS THE WORLD: THE GOOD SEED ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE KINGDOM."

To the writer it is quite significant that here in Matthew's gospel the born-again believer is called the "GOOD SEED" that the "SON OF MAN" of verse 37 is sowing in His "FIELD . . . THE WORLD." This does in no wise conflict with that recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke where it is said: "THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD." They are both an important part of the whole Truth. It is this: —The child of the "Kingdom" has become such through the regenerating power of the Word of God by the marvelous working of the Holy Spirit. Thus he has become, in a sense, an "incarnate" word of God (the living Word of God in human flesh), but, of course, not to the degree that Jesus was **the** "INCARNATE WORD" of God. So it is that the child of God does not only have the tremendous honor of being a "SOWER" that goes forth to sow the Word of God but he (or she) IS THE VERY **SEED** THAT THE SON OF GOD SOWS IN HIS FIELD.

This Divine revelation thrills me and helps me understand much better that which God desires to do **with** and **through** His people.

We, the Solomon Six, have the great honor and sacred privilege of being the first six "Brethren" seeds that God has chosen to plant in this part of His vineyard—Colombia. Our first task, as we see it, is to **be** the "people of God," to be just what He has made us—REGENERATED SEEDS —that not only have the potential to grow into a strong, spiritual "plant" but also to produce "fruit."

In the first phase of our strategy here in this new work to which God has called us, and the which we are calling here, "OPERATION FRIENDSHIP," we are seeking to surrender **completely** to Him so that the beauty of the Lord Jesus might make of each of us an attractive "plant" in His garden. This is very necessary here perhaps more than in other places, because of the tremendous distrust that exists.



Joel practices "Operation Friendship" with neighborhood boys.

Riding with a taxi triver we heard him express the general philosophy of the Colombian people in these words: "Today you can't trust anyone not even your own grandmother! That is why the people seem to be unfriendly to new neighbors who move into the suburb community where they live. The new neighbor must prove himself worthy of their trust." And this is not easy nor the job of a short time, especially **if** the "new neighbor" happens to be a **"foreigner"** and **not** of their religion. We must, by the grace of God, win their

respect and confidence before we can expect them to respond positively to the "SEED OF THE WORD" which we are responsible to sow in their hearts.

We consider this "OPERATION FRIENDSHIP" as part of the job of clearing the ground (the heart) of all the weeds of prejudices, false impressions and untruth as well as part of the job of "plowing deeply" in order to turn up good, rich, virgin soil in the which to plant the precious Word of God. And we consider that your prayers (and ours) are part of the process of calling down God's rain and sun to make the "seed" grow, hopefully a "hundred fold."

HOW ARE WE GOING ABOUT IT? WHAT TACTICS ARE WE USING?" Just the "old fashioned" method of a smile and a friendly greeting, **even** when it is not returned. Soon we heard the comment that we had become known as those who greet and smile to EVERYONE, even the humble servant girls out sweeping the sidewalk, whether negress or just a dark-skinned Colombia lass. Then it wasn't long until we found the previously "unfriendly" people to be really friendly and responsive. (This was made possible only because we don't go rushing by them in a car, **since we don't own one,** but walking to and from church, or the bus stop, etc.)

Then our second strategy was to respond immediately to any and all invitations to visit them, **even though** they may have just said it to be polite and didn't really expect us to respond to the invitation. (But, in most cases, I'm sure it was sincere).

In Argentina it was customary to take some small gift when one went visiting a home to which they had been invited. So we practiced the same here. They say—"The way to a man's heart is through his stomach" (especially quoted to single girls desirous of capturing a husband), but we have seen it work also with women and children. Even though we were told that the Colombians prefer "salty" foods to "sweet" food, Jan's cookies were greatly appreciated and just as quickly consumed. Who knows but what God will help us to reach their hearts through their stomachs?

Another "tactic" that comes quite natural for the child of God in whose heart the Holy Spirit has shed the love of God Himself, (Romans 5:5) is to love the people and their children—even the brat-like ones. LOVE BEGETS LOVE, FRIENDSHIP BEGETS FRIENDSHIP. This has been the most effective means of "making friends and influencing people" in "our barrio" (suburb) so far. God has made us just LOVE the people and we have found, so far, that they are not hard to love at all.

Other things that are helping in "OPERATION FRIENDSHIP" are: 1) the washing machine and dryer. DOES THAT SOUND STRANGE? Well, it isn't! God can use **anything** and **everything**—THAT IS HIS TO USE. Can you imagine what a catastrophe it was to one neighbor lady to lose her maid and not have either a washer or dryer of any kind, and with two children and a husband to attend? Well, I guess you can't, but it was just like the end of the world for this woman, accustomed to the "luxury" of a maid that did everything, that is, until Jan offered her assistance. And so, while the machines do the good turn of washing and drying the neighbors clothes, she and Jan have ample opportunity to visit and get acquainted and to become fast friends. And there is also always an opportunity to give a testimony or direct the conversation around to spiritual themes and sent the neighbor home, not only with her clean washing, but also a well chosen Gospel tract.

But, not only is God using Dad and Mom as "SEEDS" He has planted, He is also using all four children, and "yes," even the new member of our family — the cocker spaniel — in "OPERATION FRIENDSHIP," **and because He is doing it we are expecting** great results. TO HIM BE THE GLORY.



Jeannette sharing her washer and dryer

MINISTRY TO THE SPANISH SPEAKING

"THAT ALL PEOPLE, NATIONS AND LANGUAGES SHOULD SERVE HIM. . . ." Daniel 7:14

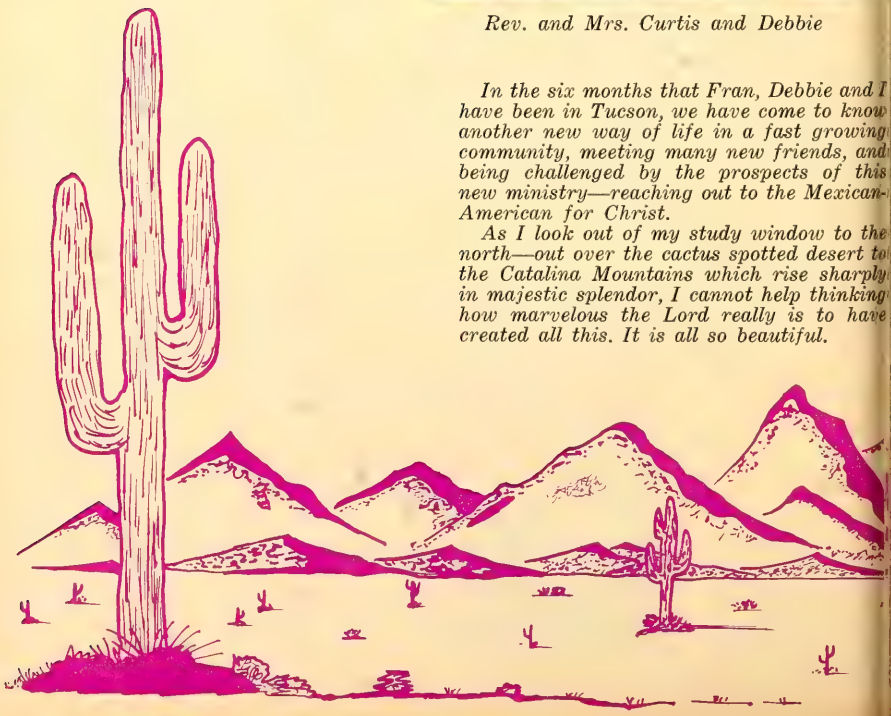
Tucson — March 1974

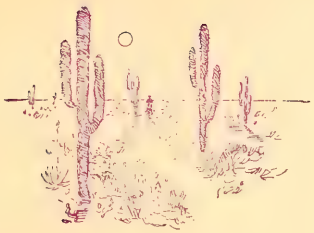


Rev. and Mrs. Curtis and Debbie

In the six months that Fran, Debbie and I have been in Tucson, we have come to know another new way of life in a fast growing community, meeting many new friends, and being challenged by the prospects of this new ministry—reaching out to the Mexican-American for Christ.

As I look out of my study window to the north—out over the cactus spotted desert to the Catalina Mountains which rise sharply in majestic splendor, I cannot help thinking how marvelous the Lord really is to have created all this. It is all so beautiful.





In conversation, we find that comparatively few people of Mexican background really come to grips with the need of a personal salvation and God's will for their life. They grope for the realities that are only to be found in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have a burning desire to involve these bi-lingual people in a personal, intimate, and glorious way with the Savior.

Paradoxically, a religion that involves Christ is the Mexican's greatest enemy. Among the many saints and exaggerated emphasis upon the Virgin Mary, Christ is lost in the shuffle. He may be the center of each mass, however the reality of a one-to-one relationship with the Lord is defeated in the formal ritualistic emphasis. These people consider themselves very religious but it is a "form of godliness which denies the real power thereof." It is very similar to the case of a man in Brazil who was asked if he ever read the Bible. His response, "No, I already told you I am a Catholic not a Protestant." As is so often the thinking—it is the Protestant who uses the Bible. Our purpose is to interest our Latin friends in God's word and help them study it.

The willingness of the Arizona Brethren to help us get started in this new outreach has meant much to us. Their help in finding a temporary home, their show of support in every way has so encouraged us. Last December many from the Tucson church gathered in our home for a "Brainstorming" session. The purpose—to search out possible avenues open to us in the Spanish ministry. As a result of that meeting, some of the suggestions have already been put into practice.

A radio ministry utilizing the Argentine produced program "Reflexiones" was initiated in early January. This five minute release of spiritual guidance is heard twice weekly over the Spanish station KEVT, Tucson. Free Bible courses are offered at the end of each program.

Praise the Lord!! The first letter arrived. It came from 18 year old Felipe. Felipe is Mexican and had been in this country about two months before hearing the program. I decided that since his was the first response, I would drive the 22 miles to see him personally.

When I arrived at the small ranch where he works, I found him waiting for the mail to come. How excited he was to receive a personal visit from someone representing the radio program!! Confidentially, I was excited too! Since my first encounter with Felipe, we have met for Bible study in his home each Tuesday nite. He seems delighted in the study of the Word and asks many questions. I am optimistic about the possibilities for him. Please pray for Felipe's conversion.

Visiting in Mexican homes has been a rewarding experience for us as we strive to win their friendship and confidence. In one of these homes the grandmother is a born again Christian having known the Lord while living in the border town of Nogales. She has lived in Tucson with her son and family for the past 12 years. Her son and wife are bi-lingual. He is a builder or construction worker. Their children (six in all) will speak only English. They understand some Spanish. Our visits are truly bi-lingual.

We sometimes sense a mistrust upon the part of the Mexican toward the "Gringo" and vice versa, but we know that when Jesus touches hearts and makes spiritual brothers of us, barriers disappear.

House to house visitation has also been used with some rewarding results. The method is probably the most difficult however God does provide us with many wonderful and gratifying experiences through this means.

There are **opportunities to preach and teach Bible classes** in other churches as I come to know other Spanish speaking pastors and workers. We hope to involve Mexican-American youth in vacation Bible school and camp this year.

Another move? Yes, we will be re-locating to a more central part of the city. This will help us greatly on our gasoline bills as well as time involved in getting from one side of the city to the other. At our new location we shall be just a few blocks away from families with whom we have already visited and who show interest. We feel that God indeed provides as we serve Him day by day. Our new home is located at 6002 East Juarez, Tucson, Arizona 85711. Strange as it may seem, the street number of our new residence is the same as the post office number for the radio program. How marvelous, the ways of the Lord! We hope to be at our new location by the first of April. Please pray with us that this move will give us additional opportunities to work among our Mexican-American friends.

"Brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified—II Thes. 3:1.

Bill, Fran and Debbie Curtis

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



ABOUT LEARNING CENTERS (Part 2)

PART 1 of this 3-part series giving some basic assumptions about Learning Centers appeared in the last issue of **The Brethren Evangelist.**

It listed some Basic Assumptions ABOUT CHILDREN—that they are individually unique in ability, background and learning style . . . that a child is happiest when he is able to discover his unique gift from God . . . that children need to respond to God individually . . . that children need adult attention and affection . . . and that adult-child relationships are very special.

Now this PART 2 lists

Basic Assumptions About Learning

- **Emphasis on Bible learning is needed in every community.
- **Children (as well as adults) learn best what they do (not what they hear or see). In fact, it is said that we remember 10% of what we hear; 50% of what we see; and 90% of what we DO!!
- **Everyone doesn't need to be doing the same thing at the same time in order to learn effectively. A few children at each activity will personalize each learning opportunity.
- **The best learning occurs when it is enjoyable.

No Learning Center will be, nor should be, just like another one. This is as it should be, for no staff of teachers (enablers) nor group of learners are the same. They vary in abilities to teach and capacities to learn. Every Learning Center should be designed to use the people available and to meet the needs of individual children.

Because of these differences, the learning situations will also vary. But regardless of the approach used in the teaching-learning experience, those Basic Assumptions ABOUT LEARNING listed above can be applied—and should be for effective communication of the Truth.

Consider how you might apply them in your Church School, youth group, or in your own home.

(Next — Basic Assumptions About Learning Centers.)

—Phil

LEARNING CENTER RESOURCES

60-Minute Tape Recording and Guide Sheets: ($2.50 for rental; $4.50 for purchase). Explains the Learning Center "philosophy" of Brethren House, along with a floor plan and many specific examples of teaching tools and approaches. Listeners work through the tape on the Guide Sheet. Be sure to request one Guide Sheet for each listener!

Learning Center Slides and Taped Narration (23 minutes): ($2.50 for rental). Using colored slide-pictures, primarily of the 1973 General Conference Children's Learning Center, the B. H. staff describes the activities there and discusses several basic Learning Center concepts — plus some practical suggestions for getting a Learning Center started. Designed for Teacher Training & general information. Be sure to give a showing date and an alternate date when ordering.

Order these resources from:

Brethren House
6301 56th Avenue, N.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709



Come and See Brethren House (20 minutes) Twenty-two color slides and cassette describing the Learning Center and work being done at Brethren House.

General Conference Learning Center (14 minutes) A Super Eight motion picture with cassette narration of the Learning Center at General Conference in Ashland, 1972. Shows some methods, equipment and use, and staff of this particular Learning Center.

Order **these** resources free of charge from:

The Missionary Board
530 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

World Religious News in Review

STUDENTS OF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL RECEIVE NEW TESTAMENTS AT SERVICE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (EP)—Seven hundred and fifty copies of the New Testament were distributed to students at Catholic High School for Boys following a special Mass celebrated by Father Jerome Kodell of New Subiaco Abbey.

"The New Testaments were distributed," the priest said, "to enable students to get to know Christ better by reading about Him through the words of the evangelists during the weeks when they do not receive formal religious instruction."

The school's students alternate religious instruction periods. During the first half of a grading period, half the students attend religion classes while the other half has religious reading periods. During the second half, the reverse order is followed.

'MARY AND JOSEPH' REFERENCE IN TELECAST STIRS PROTESTS

NEW YORK (EP)—The ho-ho-ho and ha-ha-ha brand of news coverage featured on television trapped Dick Schaap, a sports editor best known as Joe Namath's co-author or ghostwriter, into a comment that caused the switchboard at WNBC-TV to light up with hundreds of protesting phone calls.

In discussing the fecundity problems of two great horses, now at stud, he referred on a newscast to Secretariat and Riva Ridge as "the most famous pair of stablemates since Joseph and Mary."

Said Mr. Schaap in the apology the following evening: "I try to inform and I try to entertain, but I do not try to offend. If I did, I apologize. There are enough ill feelings in the world without my adding to them."

300,000 EXPECTED AT KOREAN EXPLO '74

ARROWHEAD SPRINGS, Calif. (EP)—Approximately 300,000 Koreans are expected to participate in Explo '74, an international training congress on evangelism scheduled for Aug. 14-18, in Seoul, Korea.

Sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ, the intensive Christian training congress "will help open wide the doors of Asia for the message of Jesus Christ," according to Campus Crusade president Bill Bright.

Explo '74 will open one year after the Billy Graham Crusade drew more than a million Koreans to Seoul's Yoi-do Island.

Several thousand Americans will also be a part of Explo '74, an event patterned after Explo '72 which convened in Dallas June 12-17.

'CHRIST MAKES MAN TOTAL PERSON,' ASTRONAUT SAYS

HOUSTON (EP)—Southern Baptist astronaut William R. Pogue said his 84 days on the Skylab III mission, the longest manned space voyage, made him realize that man is more than just an intellectual being and needs Christ in his heart to become a total person.

The mission also gave Pogue a heightened awareness of life and his relationships with people. The same thing has happened to others who have gone into space, Pogue, a Baptist deacon, said when interviewed here with his pastor, Bill Darnell, of Nassau Bay (Tex.) Baptist Church.

As a result of the Skylab mission, Pogue said, "I'm firmly convinced that there's more to life than the body and intellect—it's the soul. Raw intellectual capacity is just the shell."

The Baptist astronaut said he now realizes more than ever, "There's that kernel that most of us miss. When a person finds Christ, he becomes a total person."

Pogue said this discovery was renewed and heightened for him during the mission. Being convinced and having it proven are two different things, he said.

C.O.W. UNDERWAY IN PHILIPPINES

MANILA (EP)—"One Way '74" began this month here as a nation-wide continuing evangelistic outreach sponsored by the Christ the Only Way movement (C.O.W.) which began in 1966 following the Berlin World Congress on Evangelism.

"The Body of Christ in the Philippines is beginning to move as one in the task of evangelism," said Nene Ramientos, national coordinator of C.O.W.

The thrust will sponsor mass evangelistic campaigns in 20 key cities from February to August this year. Churches from various denominations have come out openly in support of the "One Way '74" series.

Five evangelists each from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Overseas Crusades will assist during the second half of the crusade. Persons making decisions for Christ will be directed to cell groups which pastors and laymen conduct in homes, restaurants, offices and other neutral places.

Called "CORE" (Cell group of believers Organized for Renewal and Evangelism), and LEGS (Lay Evangelistic Group Studies), the lay effort will absorb all who make first-time commitments to the Lord, Ramientos said.

There are currently some 5,000 CORE groups and 10,000 LEGS throughout the Philippines.



THE 1974 NATIONAL BYC CONVENTION IS COMING!

Over 200 youth from across the nation will converge on the Ashland College campus August 13-18 for this annual gathering of Brethren youth. The Board of Christian Education staff has been studying the 1973 Convention and is making plans for an improved convention in 1974.

Already some of the youth in your church are making preparations to attend; others are uncertain; still others may not even be aware that there is such an annual "coming together" of the National BYC. We want every Brethren youth, from those completing the seventh grade through college-age, to be able to attend and have an active part in this great spiritual experience. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that action be initiated **NOW** to insure the possibility of full participation.

WHO MAY ATTEND?

Any young person may attend the 1974 National BYC Convention. The program, however, is designed specifically for youth in the Brethren Church (particularly those who are members of National BYC) who are completing seventh grade in 1974 through college-age.

Youth attending the Convention will fall into one of three categories: delegates, alternates, and visitors. **Delegates** must be registered members of National BYC prior to **May 30, 1974.** A delegate has the sole **opportunity** to vote and to present motions at the busineess sessions of the National BYC Convention and the responsibility to attend all business sessions. All other youth who attend the Convention and who are currently registered members of National BYC shall be **alternates.** An alternate shall assume all the duties of a delegate in the event that a delegate is unable to serve. He or she has an obligation to attend all business sessions of the Convention. All youth not currently registered as members of National BYC shall be **visitors.** A visitor may attend business sessions as an observer only.

Delegates, alternates, and visitors have an equal opportunity and responsibility to attend all other formal and informal activities of the Convention. Only youth who will bring with them a desire to grow in their faith and a spirit of cooperation and responsible action should be encouraged to attend.

SELECTION OF DELEGATES

Minimum age for delegates is **completion** of the 7th grade in 1974. Each local BYC will be allowed **one** junior high or high school age delegate for every five (5) registered BYC members or any part thereof. In addition, registered college-age persons (through age 22) may serve as at-large delegates.

Only those groups whose membership has been registered with the National Board of Christian Education office prior to **May 30, 1974,** are eligible to send **delegates** to the National BYC Convention. Shortly after June 1, the appropriate number of delegate credentials will be sent **via Registered Mail** to the contact person listed on the "National BYC Membership Roster." Upon receipt of these credentials, the local group is encouraged to elect their delegates.

College students who are at-large members of National BYC may request at-large credentials through **August 1, 1974.** However, to qualify for a credential they must be a registered member of National BYC by **May 30, 1974.**

NATIONAL BYC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Membership in National BYC lasts from September 1 through August each year. There are several advantages to registering: (1) it provides the BCE with a mailing list for direct communication with local youth and college students; (2) each member receives **Morning Star,** the National BYC newspaper; (3) it gives local groups and college students a sense of being a part of the larger movement and lessens the isolationist or "inward only" attitude; and (4) only individuals registered prior to May 30, 1974 are eligible for participation in the National BYC Convention.

Local BYC groups wishing to register must submit **for each member:** (1) name, (2) address, (3) college address—where applicable, (4) year in school, (5) group (junior, junior high, senior, or combined), and (6) one dollar. Registration forms are available upon request.

College students who have not registered as members of a local BYC may register at-large by submitting the same information.

Membership cards will be issued as soon as possible after receiving registrations.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS UPON DELEGATES, ALTERNATES, AND VISITORS

(1) Youth who complete grades 7-11 in 1974 must have an adult sponsor at the Convention (LIMIT: 6 youth/sponsor!) These youth must live in convention facilities unless living with family or sponsor in approved housing. Commuters living **at home** are excepted.

(2) All youth shall abide by the rules of conduct adopted by the National BYC Council and the Board of Christian Education. Conduct befitting a Christian will be expected; deviations may result in dismissal from the Convention.

(3) Youth shall participate in all program activities, except in special cases when clearance is received from convention officials.

(4) The National BYC Constitution and BY-laws will serve as the standard for conduct of business.

(5) A Convention fee of $5.00 shall be paid upon arrival at the Convention and prior to room registration.

* * *

NOW is the time to make preparations for the 1974 Convention. We hope a large group of youth from your church will attend. If your group has not registered its membership, do so now! If you have registered, begin to make more complete plans to attend the Convention as a group. The list on page 12 will help you evaluate your present status.

If you have any questions, please feel free to write.

discovery 74

THE BYC EVENT OF THE YEAR

AUGUST 5-12, 1974

OHIO CAMP BETHANY

For Youth Completing Grade 10 Through Age 22

Discover:

—YOURSELF by a personal encounter with your own spiritual life through devotions, Bible study, seminars . . .

—OTHERS by contributing to a community of believers through work and recreation together . . .

—YOUR TALENTS through learning experiences in photography, lighting, sound, promotion . . .

—A MUSICAL, Discovery, that you will help present to General Conference on Wednesday evening, August 14.

Plan to attend DISCOVERY 74, then stay over for the 1974 National BYC Convention.

REGISTRATION STATUS OF BYC GROUPS — 3-11-74

Registered Churches, Group and No. of Members

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA — 0

CENTRAL — 53

Lanark - Combined	15
Milledgeville - Combined	7
Udell - Senior	10
Waterloo - Junior	7
Waterloo - Jr. High	6
Waterloo - Sr. High	8

FLORIDA — 45

St. Petersburg - Combined	1
Sarasota - Junior	7
Sarasota - Jr. High	12
Sarasota - Senior	25

NORTHERN INDIANA — 255

Ardmore - Junior	14
Ardmore - Jr. High	8
Ardmore - Senior	14
Bryan - Jr. High	11
Bryan - Senior	19
County Line - Senior	19
Elkhart First - Jr. High	5
Elkhart First - Senior	17
Ft. Wayne - Combined	11
Goshen - Combined	15
Jefferson - Senior	8
Milford - Combined	16
Mishawaka - Combined	10
Nappanee - Jr. High	10
Nappanee - Senior	19
New Paris - Combined	18
North Liberty - Combined	9
Warsaw - Combined	32

SOUTHERN INDIANA — 152

Burlington - Junior	17
Burlington - Senior	15
Flora - Combined	13
Kokomo - Jr. High	9
Loree - Junior	7
Loree - Senior	9
Mexico - Senior	9
Muncie - Combined	8
Muncie - Junior	7
North Manchester - Senior	2
Oakville - Combined	10
Oakville - Junior	14
Roann - Combined	22
Wabash - Combined	10

MIDWEST — 19

Derby - Combined	5
Mulvane - Junior	4
Mulvane - Senior	10

MIAMI VALLEY (OHIO) — 162

Columbus - Combined	8
Dayton - Combined	11
Gratis - Combined	20
Gretna - Combined	12
New Lebanon - Junior	10
New Lebanon - Senior	15
Pleasant Hill - Combined	19
West Alexandria - Combined	67

NORTHEAST OHIO — 32

Ashland Park St. - Senior	8
Canton - Senior	8
Massillon - Combined	3
North Georgetown - Senior	13

PENNSYLVANIA — 189

Brush Valley - Combined	21
Cameron - Combined	11
Fairless Hills - Levittown - Jr. High	7
Fairless Hills - Levittown - Senior	9
Johnstown II - Combined	12
Johnstown III - Combined	15
Pittsburgh - Combined	17
Valley - Combined	17
Vandergrift - Junior	13
Vinco - Junior	8
Vinco - Jr. High	18
Vinco - Senior	21
Wayne Heights - Junior	9
Wayne Heights - Senior	11

SOUTHEAST — 66

Chandon - Combined	4
Hagerstown - Junior	11
Hagerstown - Jr. High	8
Hagerstown - Senior	11
Linwood - Senior	10
Maurertown—St Luke - Combined	11
Washington - Senior	11

SOUTHWEST — 17

Tucson - Post High	6
Tucson - Senior	11

COLLEGE AT-LARGE — 9

Total No. of Churches
With Registered Members — 59

Total No. of Churches
With No Registered Members — 61

Total No. of National
BYC Members Registered — 999

Churches Not Registered

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Lathrop, Manteca, Stockton

CENTRAL

Cedar Falls, Cerro Gordo

FLORIDA

Bradenton

NORTHERN INDIANA

Brighton, Dutchtown, Matteson, South Bend, Teegarden, Winding Waters

SOUTHERN INDIANA

Center Chapel, College Corner, Corinth, Denver, Huntington, Marion, Peru, Roanoke, Tiosa

MIDWEST

Carleton, Cheyenne, Falls City, Ft. Scott, Morrill

MIAMI VALLEY (OHIO)

Williamstown

NORTHEAST OHIO

Akron, Fremont, Garber, Glenford, Louisville, Mansfield, Newark, Smithville

PENNNSYLVANIA

Berlin, Calvary, Conemaugh, Highland, Masontown, Meyersdale, Mt. Olivet, Mt. Pleasant, Quiet Dell, Raystown, Sergeantsville, White Dale

SOUTHEAST

Bethlehem, Cumberland, Gatewood, Haddix, Kimsey Run, Krypton, Liberty, Lost Creek, Mathias, Mt. Olive, Oak Hill, Rowdy, St. James

SOUTHWEST

Papago Park





BABY TAM
Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital
(A World Relief Center)
DaNang, South Vietnam

CHRISTIAN LOVE CARES

by Lillian H. Graffam

BABY TAM'S MOTHER probably felt she couldn't cope with her any longer. Or maybe she wanted to be sure her little girl got the attention she needed. Or maybe she was just too poor to care for another little one. Whatever the reason, she abandoned her child at the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital near Danang, Vietnam.

Little Tam had a crippling problem. Both her hands were badly deformed by burn injuries.

The hospital, supported and administered by the World Relief Commission, has cared for many orphans. And they also took this pathetic little waif in, and gave her loving care and attention.

WRC's Dr. David Alvarez, American orthopedic surgeon, did a long series of operations on the little deformed hands, restoring them to usefulness.

During her year's hospital stay, love and care transformed her from a miserable, crying infant into a smiling toddler, everybody's favorite. When restoration was complete, she was transferred to a Christian orphanage.

A life was salvaged—because somebody cared.



DR. DAVID ALVAREZ, performing an amputation at Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital outside DaNang, South Vietnam.



Tam was only one of 25,000 children who might ot have survived if there were no hospital there. housands of children, including many of mixed acial parentage, have been given a chance for holeness through the sacrificial effort of both ietnamese and Americans.

WRC acts to provide means for survival to vic- ms of natural disaster anywhere in the world. hen, if needed, the Commission stands behind ie sufferers during the long recovery phase with elf-help programs designed to aid the economy nd help people achieve self-reliance.

Following is a quick recap of the aid given in everal countries:

Vietnam. The World Relief Commission has erved in this country since 1961. While the **hos- ital** is the largest project, it also is involved in any other aid programs, such as **refugee relief.**

All these years WRC has been ministering in very personal way to thousands of refugees hrough Christian Youth Social Service, the Viet- amese counterpart. Most recently WRC staff are ding the latest refugees from Quang Tri Prov- ce who have settled into vacant U.S. camps which rround the hospital.

Another important program is **self-help assist- nce** to minority hills-tribes through **day-care cen- rs, education,** and **community development.**

BANGLADESH. Since the cyclone-driven tidal ave smashed into East Pakistan in 1970, WRC as helped the Bengalis in varying and changing ays. At present 10,000 war-ravaged families are eing settled and trained in a massive **agricultural roject** in increase food production — which is itally essential in this country where famine is n unrelenting threat.

Because it seems that it is always the children ho suffer the most in a tragedy, WRC is fund- g care for 6,000 undernourished children in **reschool** clinics conducted by Chandragona Chris- an Hospital.

Korea. Though major programs begun in orea 17 years ago have been transferred to the orean Holiness Church, WRC continues to help several areas, such as the **school for blind chil- ren,** the **leper colony,** and several **orphanages.** here is also cooperation with Southern Presby- erians in providing movable **medical and surgical nits** to Kwang Ju Hospital. This equipment will elp to improve services at the hospital and per- nit the staff to move units to four satellite areas hen needed. These are in a region serving four illion people.

Laos. Funds distributed through missionaries re used to purchase necessities for tribespeople eing continually displaced by the war. Also help s given to provide buffaloes and rice for **food pro- uction,** and centers for **education** and **worship** here refugees have settled.

India. WRC has been channeling **emergency elief funds** to Christian agencies to help insure he survival of millions of people in the north and ast districts who have been caught in one of the orst famines to hit India. Insufficient rain aused a severe two-year drought. Animals needed or food and food production are dying.

In Calcutta area, **vocational training** has been nitiated to enable young men to become self- upporting.

Sub-Sahara Africa. In the countries of Upper Volta, Mali, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, and Senegal, **a 40-month drought has resulted in serious famine.** WRC has sent funds to Upper Volta to aid the people suffering in these countries.

Sudan. As a member of the Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS), a united evangelical effort to resettle a million refugees following a lengthy civil war, WRC has provided **funds, medicines,** and **hospital equipment.**

Nicaragua. Within hours of the earthquake which devastated Managua on December 23, 1972, WRC dispatched $7,000 to be used for relief supplies by evangelical missions working in the city. An additional $70,000 has been provided to be used for emergency **feeding stations** for children, a **mobile hospital** and **medicines, house repair** and **construction, support of pastors, evangelistic campaigns,** and distribution of **25,000 Spanish Scriptures.**

Chile. Since 1966, WRC has been using U.S. food-for-peace in a massive food-for-work **land and community development program,** has **fed thousands** of children and adults in institutions, helped in **disaster relief,** initiated a **nutrition-training program,** and distributed **clothing, vitamins** and **medicines.**

The Spiritual Plus

All assistance is accompanied by spiritual help in some form. WRC terms its ministry as "Humanitarian Concern . . . with a Plus!" The "plus" is the desire to present Christ as the answer to man's deepest needs, which goes beyond meeting physical demands.

The people who are helped with material assistance often sense that there is the motivation of love behind the service given. Some ask: "Why are you here when you don't have to be?" Or, "Why are you doing this for us?" Because WRC works through evangelicals, both nationals and Americans, there is often opportunity to tell of the compassionate Christ who cared enough to come to this world.

Material aid opens a door to reception of the Gospel. In Managua missionaries report there is an unusual interest in the Scriptures, church services are well attended, and there is an increase in conversions.

In WRC's children's hospital in Vietnam, **90 children accepted Christ in nine months.** Some who had been difficult to deal with become cooperative. Many told their families about Christ.

> **Eleven-year-old Thiet** was brought into the hospital with serious burns caused by boiling water. It was considered doubtful if he would live. But slowly he recovered. His family was traditionally Buddhist. Until Thiet came to the hospital, he had never heard the name of Jesus Christ. Through the love shown him by the Christian hospital staff, and by the Bible stories and conversation with Mr. Ai, Vietnamese hospital chaplain, **he came to understand who Christ is.**
>
> One day he told Mr. Ai that he now knew that Buddha could not help him, but Jesus could. They prayed together and Thiet gave his heart to the Lord.
>
> Mrs. Judy Long, wife of the medical director, Dr. Robert Long, said: "Thiet told the other

kids in the burn unit about Jesus' love for them. Each new patient heard about his experience and how he believed God loved him regardless of his deformities. When he noticed one little girl wasn't having as much pain when her dressings were changed, he told her that she should thank God that she was getting better.

"Thiet also talked to his mother about Jesus, and she talked to Mr. Ai on several occasions. Now she wants to become a Christian. Thiet's joyfulness and unhesitating testimony of God's love have been a challenge to us all and made us so thankful for the opportunity of presenting Christ to these kids."

Who can tell the eternal results of love in action?

The love of Christ constrains us to know that "Christian love cares" in a practical way by providing "food for the body" as well as "food for the soul" (a WRC slogan), by binding the wounds of those who are hurting and sick, by distributing blankets and housing materials to the homeless, by caring what happens to little ones in institutions, by giving hope for the future through education.

It is love—personally given. As Frances Ridley Havergal prayed:

"Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love."



Mrs. Graffam is the wife of Everett S. Graffam, executive vice-president of World Relief Commission. In the last issue of the EVANGELIST she authored "Married To A Traveling Man."

WHEN DISASTER STRIKES, BRETHREN WORLD RELIEF DOLLARS ARE THERE HELPING—THROUGH THE WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION

In East Pakistan, an emaciated woman squatted on a hummock of land and looked with longing eyes out across the Bay of Bengal. A lot of water, but not a drop to drink. The ground was cracking-dry, the sun scorching.

As an American photographer came near she raised her sunken eyes and, through blistered lips, begged, "Water!"

He didn't have any.

After he left she noticed a group of people off in the distance crowding around a vehicle. On shaking legs she dragged herself there. An American missionary, the Rev. Phil Parshall of International Christian Fellowship, was just getting back into his truck. A Bengali man was pumping water! She could hardly believe it. She drank greedily, relishing the feel of the water on her parched lips and dry throat.

This woman was one of the homeless survivors of a killer storm and tidal wave which had crashed in from the Bay. Her family and all she owned had been lost. She would have lost her life too if the missionary hadn't brought materials for a shallow well.

(WRC had cabled funds to purchase the needed well-drilling supplies.)

Raj, a normal Bengali boy, was hungry. He and his little sister had been standing outside the Assemblies of God mission compound all night waiting for the Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hawkes to begin one of the three-meals-a-week distributions at Khulna, Bangladesh. Raj tried to comfort his whimpering sister, but how he wished his own stomach didn't hurt so.

Raj was only one of 3,000 women and children victims of a disastrous civil war, waiting to get half of chappati (bread pancake) and a cup of high-protein flour. By the time he left the compound, he probably had snatched a handful of the flour and eaten it raw.

(WRC supplied money for this food.)

In Nicaragua, 10-year-old Rosa was just getting out of bed as the sun came up. She hadn't slept much. It was hard to sleep with hunger cramps—even when you pulled your knees up to your chin. Maybe if she hurried she would be first in the food line at the Baptist International Mission Church.

But when Rosa got there she found hundreds of other children who were waiting patiently for someone to fill their bowls. The gnawing in their tummies had taken away all desire to play.

Rosa, and thousands of children like her, had fled the crumbling city of Managua when a devastating earthquake almost leveled it the Saturday before Christmas, 1972.

WRC forwarded money for food and rebuilding programs.)

HOW "WRC" WORKS

The Agency Through Which Brethren Dollars Are Channeled

Two Phases of Aid

The World Relief Commission relief work has two phases. **Phase I** provides the means for survival. Dealing directly with missionaries avoids political complications and food-shipping delays. **Phase II** helps assure a long-range food supply by teaching improved farming methods, use of fertilizers, animal husbandry, water production and its efficient use.

In Bangladesh, as an example, **Phase I** began with the tidal wave, continued in refugee camps in India, and is still operating among the homeless. **Phase II** is being carried out in Khulna District where 2,000 acres of useless land are being gradually transformed into orderly rows of 50-acre plots with irrigation ditches and dikes at strategic locations.

A family farms an acre. When the whole area is developed it will provide good land for 10,000 refugee and other war-affected families. The director and tract foreman are Bengali Christians.

WRC is providing American know-how, tractors, tillers, miracle rice and vegetable seed, fertilizer, irrigation pumps and fuel. Through the use of these materials there will be two rice crops per year instead of the one during the monsoon season.

Co-ops and co-op training centers have been instituted. "The local agricultural extension worker is the key to Asia's future food supply. He is the only one who can reach local farmers and change their farming techniques," the International Rice Institute states.

Because these people have nothing to start with, a seed bank has been set up which will permit a family to withdraw seed-rice to plant their acre. At harvest one-third of the yield will be returned to the bank, one-third kept for food, one-third sent to the co-op to be sold.

Helping the farmer become self-sufficient is in keeping with WRC policy, and is an affirmative answer to Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman's comment on the first birthday of the little country.

"We cannot keep on getting food from abroad as a gift," he said. "We must develop new foods, such as vegetables which require a shorter growing season than rice." He then initiated a nationwide campaign to increase food production.

U.S. Government's Gift to the Hungry

In 1954 the U.S. Government formed the International Cooperation Agency (now USAID), where by registering as a voluntary relief agency WRC received surplus foods such as cornmeal, soybeans, dried milk, salad oil and wheat which could be distributed overseas. Tons of surplus food commodities, under Public Law-480 (foods for peace), are given to voluntary agencies each year. The government also pays ocean freight shipping costs. Without this aid many evangelical Christian agencies would have to seriously curtail their ministry.

A Spiritual Plus

WRC's slogan is, "Food for the Body and Food for the Soul." Material aid is accompanied by a Gospel witness suitable to the occasion. It may be a preaching service, distribution of tracts or Scriptures, person-to-person evangelism, Bible stories for children or classes for adults.

"I was hungry and you fed me; thirsty, and you gave me drink," Jesus said. WRC, along with other evangelical Christian agencies, is "Serving as unto Christ" in times of disaster.

IRRIGATION — TWO CROPS PER YEAR

IN BANGLADESH, rice farmers used to plant one crop a year, during the monsoon season. WRC has successfully experimented with a second dry-season crop.

In 1972 when Khulna District refugees returned, WRC introduced them to farm cooperative management and supplied seed and some farming equipment. 50-acre blocks were laid out in various locations along rivers and canals. Bengali Christians were hired as block managers. Now 10,000 families, averaging six people each, are learning to be self-supporting.

The women are enthusiastic. Several widows and other women came pleading for some hoes and seed for themselves so they could speed up food production by hand-working their land.

Hoes and seed were supplied and now more than 1,000 women are each responsible for an acre. They are called "societies" with their own leadership. Regular meetings are held and record of activities and savings are maintained.



By building pumps and pump houses along waterways, WRC is helping the Bengalis meet their food crisis through cooperative farming and irrigation.

WHAT CAN $2,000 DO? IN LAOS??



WRC purchased these sewing machines for these classes in Laos. These two war widows are learning a trade as a result.

With funds supplied by the World Relief Commission, Rev. Charles E. Gustafson, pastor of the International Protestant Church in Vientiane, Laos, purchased:

—a water buffalo for a refugee tribe for rice plowing;

—blood for refugees in a hospital;

—house and church building materials among the Meo;

—15 sewing machines and two sewing schools for Meo and Khamou;

—relief supplies to Keng Koh following enemy attack.

Phil and John Lersch met Rev. Gustafson in Bangkok in April, 1972. Seated across the table from him at a dinner, they learned through conversation of the World Relief and Missionary activities he was doing in Laos.

VIETNAM GOVERNMENT ACCREDITS WRC CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The South Vietnam Government has taken steps within the past year to insure the same educational opportunities to tribal hill people (Montagnards) as to ethnic Vietnamese, reports Rev. Richard W. Pendell, Overseas Administrator for World Relief Commission.

The war forced the Montagnards from their characteristic nomadic existence, and the Government is assisting them in forming more permanent life styles.

Government officials from the ministries of Social Welfare, Ethnic Minorities, and Labor examined 83 students prior to graduation at the Dalat Tribal Vocational Training Center, testing the school's performance in the field of vocational education.

The "School of State" title which was granted will enable graduates to work anywhere in Vietnam, and makes the school eligible for Government assistance.

The Center, built in 1971 under direction of Rev. Wesley Schelander, Christian & Missionary Alliance missionary, was jointly sponsored by the Southern Tribal District of the Evangelical Church of Vietnam, Vietnam Ministry of Social Welfare, and World Relief Commission.

Under guidance of Christian tribal administrators and teachers the students are trained as skilled carpenters, mechanics, tailors, shop owners, electricians, sheet metal workers, masons, typists, and home economists. A hundred students are enrolled in the third freshman class.

Phil and John Lersch talked with Rev. Schelander in Saigon in 1972, at which time he told about the development of this school.



One view of the SHOP at the Dalat (Vietnam) Tribal Vocational Training Center.

SUB-SAHARA:



Barren Watering Hole, Sub-Sahara Country.
What if this were your front-yard scene?

WILL ENOUGH FOOD ARIVE IN TIME?
or will MILLIONS of people in sub-Sahara countries die of starvation?

Can you imagine riding 100 miles and not see a blade of grass?

In that same mileage you would see only the grotesque shape of dead trees, and cracked-dry river beds where once there was a torrent of precious water.

The living cattle are but skin stretched over bones, and there are many carcasses.

The people are pitiable in the 120 degree heat. Adults are gaunt and staring and children with oversize tummies teeter on spindly legs.

An air of hopelessness muffles the sounds as **10 million people** are threatened with death by starvation.

Years of insufficient rainfall, cattle over-grazing, and lack of adequate agricultural planning for the eventuality of drought have brought these catastrophic conditions to the Sub-Sahara African countries of:

Senegal,
Mauritania,
Mali,
Upper Volta,
Niger,
Chad.

The Sahara Desert is moving in at the rate of 14 miles a year.

As the lakes, rivers, ponds and watering holes dry up, the people, especially nomads in the north who depend on animals for livelihood, have left their native areas, sold their livestock, and have become refugees around government food distribution centers, villages or cities. This aggravates an already tragic condition in those locations.

Mr. George Doud, WRC's Administrative Vice President, when surveying the famine areas said: **"This is probably the worst disaster WRC has ever faced.** Certainly the most widespread" (2600 miles).

Along with other voluntary agencies, WRC is providing funds (over $30,000 to date) just to help keep the people alive. Evangelical missionaries have purchased and distributed sorghum, millet and rice. Shallow wells are being dug.

WRC's long-range plans include aid in an attempt to break the drought cycle.

WORLD RELIEF FEATURES AT 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE

August 12-18 in Ashland, Ohio

Monday Night:

Program of World Relief information and activities (especially for those not involved in meetings of Boards and Committees).

Sewing Booklet:

This booklet will give detailed information for sewing groups about projects for World Relief, Brethren Care and Brethrens' Home, and Brethren World Missions. Watch for it; in preparation now.

Sewing Workshop:

Plans are underway to have a Sewing Workshop open all week long. This special room would be open every day so those with an hour or two of free time could come in and work on some project that would help someone else.

Soup Supper:

The Ninth Annual SOUP SUPPER FOR WORLD RELIEF will again be held on Friday noon in the college cateteria. Come again and "Eat Less to Feed More."

JUST IN CASE . . .

. . . YOU MISSED the World Relief Financial Report in the last issue of the **Brethren Evangelist**. . . . Let me say again—

BRETHREN OPENED UP THEIR CONCERN AND WALLETS TO GIVE A TOTAL OF $13,502 FOR WORLD RELIEF in 1973. That's 4,003 more dollars than in 1972.

Thanks be to God for **supplying** . . . and to you, Brethren for **responding** to need.

Here's where that extra money came from:

$4,911	The total increased giving by 55 churches.
-1,229	The total decreased giving in 28 churches.
$3,682	The net gain in the church offerings.
+ 300	The total increased giving from individuals.
+ 21	The increase in the Conference Soup Supper profit.
$4,003	TOTAL INCREASE FOR 1973

Because the needs of the people WRC is helping are so great, let's rise above the $13,502 total in 1974. **Even with our rising cost of living, and the economic pinches, we still have so much more than most cultures of the world.** Consequently, we can enjoy the luxury of sharing what we have with those who don't have!

May 1974 be a JOYFUL year for all of us . . . because we are finding more ways of sharing our wealth.

Phil Lersch, Chairman
BRETHREN WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

news ... from the Brethren

Memorials



DR. E. C. LENTZ

Dr. Emmert C. Lentz, 68, director of health services at Ashland College died unexpectedly on February 25, 1974. Dr. Lentz, a retired Air Force medical officer, had been on the Ashland College staff since January 1966. In June 1965, Dr. Lentz was awarded the Legion of Merit, upon his retirement after 32 years in the Medical Corps. He was formerly chief of the life sciences division in the office of deputy, The Inspector General, USAF, Norton Air Force Base in California. Dr. Lentz is the author of a number of publications on aerospace medicine.

Born in Dayton on Sept. 7, 1905, he was the son of Jesse and Barbara Adelberger Lentz. He was married in 1936 to Anna Lorraine Ley, who survives. Other survivors include one son, Major Dean Lentz, M.D. of Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi; one daughter, Barbara Ann, a student at Riverside School of Nursing in Columbus; one sister, Mrs. G. L. Rogers of Dayton; two brothers, Oscar H. of Dayton and Howard W. of Brookville.

He was a member of the Park Street Brethren Church. Funeral service was held Thusday at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Street Brethren Church, with Rev. Eugene Beekley officiating.

SCARLETT

Mrs. Sylvia Scarlett 93, of Elkhart, Indiana, passed away February 18, 1974, at the Orn Nursing Home in Milford, Indiana; where she had resided for the past 5 years. Services were held at the Stemm Lawson Funeral Home on February 20, 1974 with burial at New Paris, Indiana with Pastor Dale RuLon officiating.

* * *

WILKINS

Mr. Richard James Wilkins 76, died Dec. 30, 1973. Funeral services were conducted at the Dale Church of the Brethren by the Rev. C. Y. Gilmer, the Rev. Ward Halterman, and the Rev. B. R. Vaughn; burial was in New Dale Cemetery. Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Mildred Stroop of Broadway, Mrs. Audry Mowery of Rio, and Mrs. Savilla Lantz of Bergton. Three sons, Irvin of Hayfield, Grant of Broadway, and Phillip of Baker. A sister, Miss Pearl Wilkins of Baker; a brother, Herbert of Wardensville; 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Weddings

SILVER - YODER

Darlene Silver and Randy Yoder were united in marriage on Friday evening February 16, 1974. The double ring ceremony took place at The First Brethren Church in Elkhart, Indiana with Pastor Dale RuLon officiating. Darlene is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Silver of Elkhart. Randy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Yoder of Elkhart. Randy is in the U.S. Army and is stationed in Key West, Florida.

The Yoders are residing at 623 Fleming Apt. 3, Key West Florida 33040.

Goldenaires

Francis and Laura Swain celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary on March 21.

Oakville, Indiana

EASTER TV SPECIALS SCHEDULED FOR 16 SPANISH-SPEAKING NATIONS

SUNNYVALE, Calif. (EP)—Argentine evangelist Luis Palau will appear on television in 15 Latin American countries and in Spain beginning Palm Sunday and continuing every day of Holy Week.

Palau's eight broadcasts will declare the Easter message to viewers in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Spain.

STATISTICS SHOW STATUS OF FAITH AMONG AMERICANS

NEW YORK (EP)—Good news can be gleaned from statistics concerning the status of faith in America, AP Religion Writer George Cornell observes.

The brightest U.S. high school pupils nowdays are more likely than their predecessors to consider religion important and to attend church regularly, he writes.

The best-selling book of 1973 was a lucid version of the Scriptures called, The Living Bible.

Protestant and Jewish regularity in attending worship services steadied in the past year, while Roman Catholic attendance took a sharp downturn.

Despite less church-going, American religious interest remained just as great or greater, with university students strongly oriented to religion but not necessarily to the organized church.

Cornell quoted statistics by the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago that showed the number of students reporting no conventional religious affiliations dropped last year from 14.3 per cent to 10.1.

BAYLOR OFFERS SOLZHENITSYN A POSITION

WACO, Tex. (EP)—Baylor University, largest Baptist school in the world, has offered exiled Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn the position of "writer in residence."

Although Solzhenitsyn is a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, Baylor Provost Herbert Reynolds said he "certainly is a spokesman for freedom of religion."

Names in the News

Elmer Bradley, a former Mayor of Tempe, Arizona and a leading churchman and builder, has been named chairman of the executive committee for the Arizona Billy Graham Crusade in Tempe, May 5-12.

D. Elton Trueblood, Quaker philosopher and author, will receive the 1974 Upper Room Citation March 12, an award given annually by the interdenominational devotional guide published by the United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn.

Canadian pilot Len Dyck, with the Sudan Interior Mission, died when his plane crashed near Jos, Nigeria. He had taken the single engine Piper Comanche up for a test flight.

NEW BOOKS

I'm No Hero, by Ethel Barrett. Stories of Bible characters through whom God did wonderful things. Regal. 150 pages. 95¢.

Spiritual Renewal by D. James Kennedy. How to establish a dialogue with God through Bible study and prayer.

Handbook for Christian Writers, sixth edition compiled by Christian Writers Institute. Creation House. 155 pages. $3.95.



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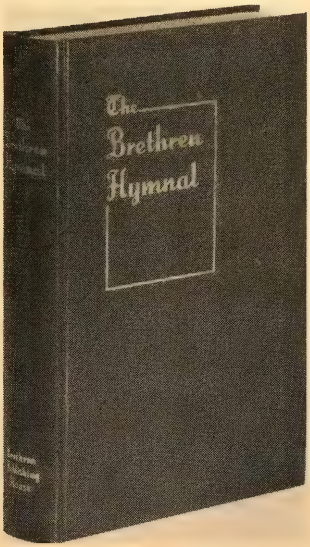
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NOTES and COMMENTS

WHAT NEXT?

Apprehension grows about the eventual results of large postal rates for periodicals.

U.S. Postmaster General Elmer T. Klassen finds it "difficult to believe" that magazines fat with ads need any form of subsidy. That illustrates how ad-heavy mags have perhaps aggravated the rate situation by flooding the nation with their product and then raised ad rates on the basis of huge circulations.

Mr. Klassen stated: "We're not trying to destroy anyone. These magazines are our customers." But Time's Vice President is skeptical. "If the Postal Service were to find the volume of mail declining . . . it would find a way to jack up the rates still more," he told the Wall Street Journal. "And then where would we be?"

A current Congressional bill that would spread out postal increases over a 10-year period is seen as the best possibility. Its curious sponsorship illustrates how diverse is public opinion. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D. Mass.) and Sen. Barry Goldwater (R. Ariz.), who rarely see eye to eye on anything, are backing the new legislation. EPA continues its watchfulness through Postal Representative Russell T. Hitt.

By the Way

NO HEROES?

This article was published in the February 17, 1974 issue of the CHRISTIAN STANDARD as an editorial and is being reprinted with permission. We wish to express our appreciation to Edwin V. Hayden, editor of the CHRISTIAN STANDARD for the privilege of letting us share this timely article as a guest editorial. [*Editor's note*]

Birthday observances for Presidents Washington and Lincoln have already elicited moans about the lack of heroes in our present day. Violations of integrity in high places, we are told, have deprived American youth of their natural right to respect and admire public leaders: hence youth must find their heroes among the rebels and the attackers against the status quo. From a different perspective someone has commented that we have no heroes in politics; we have destroyed them all!

The destruction of heroes is deeply rooted in American democracy, with its rejection of royalty and its pride in the "common man." So when a commoner from the hills of Kentucky and the woodlands of Illinois reaches the White House, he has a special claim to admiration. The most powerful of men are still human, we insist.

Humanity is subject to failings, we know, and so we bolster our self-esteem by finding fault even with those we most admire. Washington and Lincoln are not spared. Historical muckraking, prominent half a century ago, stirred up enough mud to stain the statues of the great with reminders that even they were human.

Humanity has another aspect, however, that we too easily forget. That is its need for compassion. Even subjects of a king could pray for him as a person, remembering how "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." And even when the Caesars were pretending to be gods, with prayers and sacrifices offered to them, Paul reminded Timothy that these emperors and all their satellite rulers were themselves men, standin' in the need of prayer (I Timothy 2:1, 2)! Strange, isn't it, that the apostle should not attack the rulers as false gods to be torn down, but rather should intercede for them as responsible men to be built up in the fulfillment of their God-given tasks!

It is to the lasting credit of Presidents Washington and Lincoln that they recognized their human need for divine help and that they sought that help in prayer.

Now we have another President, with human faults and human needs. The faults are advertised daily—almost hourly—through newscasts, interviews, and talk shows on radio and television, and through headlines, comments, and survey reports in newspapers. The needs are almost totally forgotten. This one-sided treatment is hard to explain and still harder to understand at a time when compassionate regard for human needs is the "in" principle with respect to almost everyone else—especially the disadvantaged and the rebels against authority, even when their rebellion becomes violent crime. But compassion for the President is hard to find.

One available explanation does nothing to comfort us in these troubled times. Our theory may be expressed in comparison with a football game. Mr. Nixon scored, resoundingly, in the fall election, 1972. The voters had spoken, but the opposition—notably represented in the media for interpreting and sometimes making as well as reporting news—didn't like what the voters had said. Stung but not subdued, they determined to reverse the score. The way of the skilled quarterback was open to them: find some defensive weakness and exploit that weakness relentlessly, persistently, mercilessly, until the whole defense breaks down.

Watergate provided what the opposition needed. Even if the President didn't perform the stupid blunder there, he could be implicated with what his supporters did. Even if the President could not be charged with crime, private accusations could be made to serve the same purpose. Even if the

(*continued on next page*)

President could not be accused of any specific misdeed, general implications and innuendoes could be just as devasting. Swift resolution of the whole matter in the courts would not suffice. That would end the affair and without getting the man they were after. Instead there would be months-long hearings, publicly displayed, to gain by suggestion what formal charges could never accomplish.

Then someone whispered "resign" and "impeach." The media provided a megaphone through which the whisper grew to a shout that began to sound like the voice of the whole crowd at the ball game.

The original crime had long since been lost in charges of "cover-up," and the media almost persuaded the public that cover-up was a newly invented evil. In fact they nearly covered up some dramatic cover-ups that longer-memoried folk can well recall.

Then there were the tapes, and the story of the tapes was replayed enough times to wear out any tapes or tape player yet invented. Through it all there appears a bitter irony—two crimes are laid at the President's door. First, someone close to the White House arranged to listen in on others' political conversations. Second, someone in the White House seems to have resisted the attempts of others—including the whole world by way of Washington cocktail parties—to listen in on the President's executive conversations. So in the public courtroom of the media it becomes a crime —whatever it is—if the White House does it! The team with the media's football may yet destroy their target—and the nation.

The President is not perfect. Some of his heroic predecessors may have been imperfect, too. He is probably not wholly blameless. That, too, would place him in a severely limited company. But the President will do an immeasurably better job in his difficult position if Christians, at least, remember that he has human needs as well as human failings. The Scripture, remember, urges **that we pray for—not prey on**—those who govern us. When we learn to do that, we may yet raise up a few genuine heroes.

DR. PEALE PREACHES AT WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—"Be a child in your faith again and believe that God loves you," Dr. Norman Vincent Peale told 250 persons invited by President Nixon to a White House religious service held on St. Patrick's Day.

Among the guests were the Irish Ambassador to the U.S., John G. Molloy, and the U.S. Ambassador to Eire, John D. J. Moore.

The service marked the fourth time that Dr. Peale, famed preacher, writer and pastor of Marble Collegiate church in New York had led a service in the East Room. It was the 43rd White House service since Mr. Nixon began the practice on Jan. 26, 1969.

In a 20-minute sermon, "The Answer is Love," Dr. Peale based his theme on the well-known "love chapter," Corinthians 13, which he read.

He said a young seminarian once asked the late Karl Barth to define Christianity in one sentence, to which the theologian replied (quoting an old Sunday School hymn): " 'Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.' "

"In any judgment," said Dr. Peale, "what this world needs now is a re-emphasis on this simple truth." He said it will amaze most people how the words, "God loves you—and so do I," can change the lives of people going through particularly difficult times.

"Every human pain is here is this room, hidden behind often smiling faces," he said. "But there's something else in this house: God loves you and watches over you and takes care of you."

However, he added, the "essence of Christianity" is not only that "God loves us, but that we are supposed to love one another." The "only thing that will save the world is that people stop hating one another and instead love each other," he said.

Sitting in the front row with President Nixon during the 40-minute service was his daughter, Julie Eisenhower and her husband David (they were married by Dr. Peale in 1968), Mrs. Peale, and Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren E. Burger.

Mrs. Nixon missed her first White House service due to a "light flu" she had developed, after flying the day before from Brazilia, Brazil to Nashville, Tenn., a nine-hour flight.

"PEOPLE ARE FUNNY"

A PARABLE FOR TODAY

And, behold, there dwelt in a nearby town a family who belonged to the church of the Living Lord. On the Lord's Day morning of a certain week the youngest son of the family was afflicted with a cold. Calling to him, the elder son and the two daughters, the father told the family that they would not be able to attend the church of the Living Lord on that day because of the cold which was bothering the younger brother. Therefore the family spent the day at home. On the morrow the younger son was still afflicted with his cold; however, only mother remained at home to comfort and to care for him—father went to his usual daily work; the elder brother and the two sisters were sent to the place of learning. And so it continued throughout the rest of the week, for it was only on the Lord's Day that the affliction of one member of that family hindered the activities of the other members.

On the Lord's Day following, that family went to the church of the Living Lord and heard the pastor as he spake concerning the bringing of the tithe into the storehouse. After returning to their home, as the family brake bread, the father of that household said, 'Yea, verily, that pastor is beside himself. If we heeded his exhortation to give a tithe of all that I have to the work of the church it would take sixty dollars a month, and of a surety he realizes that I cannot make such a sacrifice as that without taking bread and clothing from our family'—and the rest of the family began each one to consent. Not many days hence the master of that house gazed upon his wife and said, 'Woman, we have been driving that same car for four years now and hath seen many of our neighbors purchase for themselves new cars. Let us take ourselves to the market place and see if we can drive a bargain.' And so they sojourned to the place where cars were bought and sold, and after a short time they laid their hands upon one and said to the seller, 'We will take this one for our own'—and straightway they covenanted with the merchant to pay him one hundred and ten dollars a month—with little thought of how it would affect the bread and clothing of their family.

Now the church of the Living Lord, having a concern for the welfare of the congregation, sought to minister in divers ways to the needs of the people; and, because he also had a concern for the welfare of the people, the pastor of that flock exhorted them to benefit from the sundry services and activities of that church. Lo there were times for studying the Word of God, there were times set aside for the men of that church to unite in study and work, there were times set aside for the women to draw away from the hustle and bustle of household chores and to enjoy sweet fellowship with their sisters. And some of the families in the church of the Living Lord attended many of these special occasions and found blessing therein. However, the family in the nearby town did not avail themselves of these times of blessing. And when the pastor of the church of the Living Lord inquired concerning this seeming lack of interest the householder replied, 'Behold, we have little time for such activities. Also when any of the family attends such programs either I or the lady of the house must interrupt our work to take them to the church.' A few weeks later that pastor went to that house to visit the family one evening only to discover that they had driven to the next village to participate in a ball game. He returned the next evening, and lo and behold, the house was again vacant; for the father was attending a gathering of his lodge, the sisters were at a meeting of the local girls' club, the elder and younger brother were engaged in practice at the ball field and at school—and since the mother did not want to be at home alone she had driven in the second car to a movie house. And that pastor, after going to that home on several occasions, always with the same result, said within himself, 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

Now there was in a far distant city another pastor and preacher whose voice was carried far and near through the miracle of radio and television, and the family from the church of the Living Lord found pleasure in listening to the messages of this great prophet. The householder often spoke to his friends and neighbors concerning this great spokesman of the Lord's, and especially praised the far-off preacher because of his courage in speaking out and not permitting the fear of "treading upon a hearer's toes" hinder his proclaiming of the Word. "Of a truth," the man of the house would say, "that preacher is the kind of man I like to hear, for he feareth not what other men might say. He letteth the chips fall where they may." There came a time when the pastor and deacons of the church of the Living Lord noticed that the man from the nearby town and his family had not been in the services of the church of the Living Lord for several Sundays and so straightway several of the brethren sojourned to this man's house to inquire about his welfare and his absence. Upon stating their concern over his absence the deacons were told by the man of the house that he had been offended by the pastor of the church of the Living Lord because some of his exhortations and some of his admonitions were too pointed and troubleth his heart and mind.

When the parable was finished the people standing beside the preacher said unto him, "Tell us, we pray, what meaneth this parable?" And the preacher replied, "Hear now the meaning of the parable: Vanity of vanity, surely people (even members of the church of the Living Lord) are funny."

Henry Bates

Moderator's Manna



The Constitution of the United States does not guarantee happiness to human beings, but the right to the pursuit of happiness. The writers of this great document had enough wisdom to know they couldn't offer happiness to humanity—for it is a quality of life that is individually acquired. The wisdom of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7) speaks boldly to this point.

Happiness is an active attitude. It is available to those who seek it. Perhaps this is why our Lord placed so much emphasis on personal involvement. One basic demand of the Kingdom is: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." Wow! What activity and involvement, but what happiness for the discoverer.

It appears to me that more of the people of God will know happiness when we know active involvement. Allow me the opportunity to share three ingredients that I believe are integral parts of happiness.

I. ACCEPT—The starting point is when we accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of our life. Yes, His will is my will in my life. I may choose to retire from my business or vocation, but never from service for Jesus. The churches across the Brotherhood have far too many retired Christians of all ages sitting in our comfortable pews. They are unhappy because they are uninvolved as disciples of the Master. Therefore the task of the church is to create the good news attitude of involvement where each person allows other persons to be serving the Kingdom as God stirs them. Sometimes we find that hard to accept because we want all to be as we are.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Don't try to make other people over into a copy of yourself, for God knows, and you should too, that one person like you is all the world can stand." The Church is the living body made up of different bodies who all accept Jesus Christ and function within a body or they become unhappy. It is when we accept others even as God has accepted us, then we move a long step in the direction of happiness.

II. AGREE—The prophet Amos (3:3) implies if two people are to walk together they must discover agreement. Paul suggests that believers are not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Within His Church we must agree upon the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith or we create unhappiness and become unhappy ourselves. The Brethren Church has been built upon the precept of the local church developing aggressive leadership in its methodology to proclaim the loving message of good news.

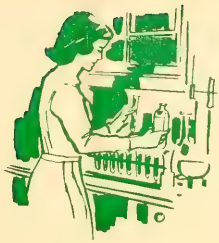
Let us not try to mold all churches alike, but search and seek for each to be flexible as they become most effective in Christian outreach in their community. For the Christian, **happiness is wanting what you get from God.** Could it be that many of us have not been thankful and agreeable with what God bestows? Therefore, we must purify our purpose and focus our faith in order to discover the reality of happiness within ourselves and His Church.

III. APPLAUD—This is the most neglected and least utilized of the ingredients. Just as a happy marriage demands of the husband, wife and children to applaud and show appreciation one to another, so must the members of the people of God. Why should Christians neglect such an important aspect in their lives? Is it because we are too busy thinking about ourselves that we forget others? The Apostle Paul's letters (Philippians & Philemon) point out his ability to exhort, but also, his ability to applaud when it was needed. So did Mary applaud Jesus at a special time by the use of the priceless ointment. Is there someone to whom you ought to express sincere gratitude?

It is exciting to realize the potential of the Brethren Church, when we the people, become filled with happiness. It is like a child's favorite jam. It not only covers his bread, but it usually gets spread upon his face. Let us spread the happiness of Jesus within and without the people of God through our active involvement for His Church. **Let's go, happy pilgrims!**

Paul D. Steiner
220 E. Locust St.
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WOMEN'S LAB



In all their travels, Peggy seems to have felt most at home in Turkey and confesses to having the warmest spot in her heart for its people. Asked why, she replies that perhaps they are most like Americans, even to their sense of humor.

Her proficiency in the Turkish language came not from formal study, but, as she says, "by going down and getting lost." To be sure, she studied some grammar for more correctness in speaking, but most of her skill came from actual encounters with the people, taking trips alone, and visiting in their homes. One of her laboratory experiments, as it might be called, resulted in her interesting some wealthy Turkish people in helping the poor.



Yes, she loves Turkey, but not only the kind you stuff and eat with cranberry sauce. One need not be a women's libber to acquire enthusiasm for activities in adddition to cooking and housekeeping. At least, Peggy Beekley has widened her horizons far beyond these confines, without repudiating them as a part of her role as a wife. In the great laboratory of life, she has conducted many experiments in human relationships.

While her husband, Reverend Eugene Beekley —presently serving as pastor of the Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland and formerly chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) in the United States Air Force—was stationed in foreign fields, she accompanied him wherever she was allowed to go. She learned to know the people, the languages and cultures.

While in Okinawa and in Turkey, she taught in their schools, becoming well acquainted with their people and customs. Stationed two years at Adana, Turkey, she taught social studies and language arts.

Several summers ago, since the Beekleys returned to the States to live, Peggy visited Turkey again to renew acquaintance with old friends and her "second home." Asked if it wasn't a bit frightening to travel alone, knowing very little or nothing of the language where she was traveling, and where those she encountered often knew no English, she replied, "It's amazing how well one can get along, if he knows only 'hello, goodby, thank you, and please.' Motions also are helpful."

This summer Peggy plans to spend some weeks in Colombia, South America, increasing her knowledge of Spanish and teaching some English to the Colombians. She will likely live with Spanish-speaking people, but will also spend some time with the Solomons.

This versatile little lady looks upon the world as her home and upon its people as her family. To her we can say in the meaningful phrase of some of her favorite people (Turkish), **Al la ha is sma la dik,** "I leave you in the hands of God," to which she will doubtless reply, **Gule, Gule,** "Go smilingly!"—il

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS



ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

LAUSANNE, Switzerland—Four speakers at the forthcoming International Congress on World Evangelization have cautioned evangelical Christians to take culture seriously and to communicate the Gospel in terms that are understandable in the cultures in which they work.

The advice is contained in position papers by four theologians on four continents. Their texts are in the second group of papers being mailed in advance to the 2700 participants in the congress which is scheduled here July 16-25.

Writers of the second set of study documents are: Susumu Uda, Japan Christian Theological Seminary, Tokyo; Howard A. Snyder, Free Methodist Theological Seminary, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Francis A. Schaeffer, L'Abri Fellowship, Huemoz, Switzerland; and George W. Peters, Dallas (Texas) Theological Seminary, U.S.A.

As their papers were mailed, participants' responses to the first group of documents were beginning to reach the congress office in Lausanne. In an unusual procedure, every person invited to the July meeting of Christian leaders has been asked to read the texts and to respond in writing within two weeks after their receipt. Their comments and questions are being forwarded to the authors, who will spend most of their allotted time on the congress platform discussing points raised in the written replies.

Paul E. Little, program director, expressed satisfaction with the returns which had been received after participants studied the first set of texts.

"The response has been prompt, it has been thoughtful, and it demonstrates real interaction with the material," he said. Little added that the advance study process is increasing enthusiasm for the congress.

Within three weeks from the posting of the initial group of documents, a total of 450 replies had been received in the program office.

Material in the second group is likely to evoke an even livelier response than that in the first.

Snyder, writer of a paper on "The Church as God's Agent of Evangelism," asserts that when the Bible speaks of "church" it does not mean denominations or other institutional structures. He claims that the church is an organism and not an organization bound by cultural patterns.

His text supports denominations and specialized evangelistic organizations, but he calls them "para-church" structures. The dean of Sao Paulo's Free Methodist Seminary notes that such groups are "useful to the extent that they aid the church in its mission, but (they) are man-made and culturally determined." He adds, "Whereas the church itself is part of the new wine of the Gospel, all para-church structures are wineskins—useful, at times indispensable, but also subject to wear and decay."

Two of what Snyder calls "traditional views" of the church are described as inadequate. He says both the "mystical" and "institutional" positions "fail to take culture seriously" while the church patterned on Biblical lines takes seriously the dimensions of culture: space, time and history.

Essential to Biblical church growth, Snyder claims, are these four elements: proclamation of the Gospel, multiplication of congregations, building of the Christian community, and exercising of spiritual gifts.

Uda, from a different theological position, declares that the church is the church only so long as it proclaims the Biblical message. The Japanese Reformed Presbyterian theological professor, writing on the topic "Biblical Authority and Evangelism," warns that "there would be no foundation for Christian faith and action" without the divine revelation known as the Bible.

"It has been the faith of the people of God from the very foundation of the church until today that the Bible is the word of God in such a sense that whatever it says, God says, "Uda writes. He adds that this high view of Scripture is nothing new, nor was it the invention of 16th and 17th century

Protestants. "It was indeed held by the Jews, by the early church, and through the centuries. Standing on the promises of God found in the revealed word of God has certainly been the essential characteristic of the faith of God's people."

The Tokyo minister cites the Apostle Paul as a prime example of a Christian communicator who proclaimed the Gospel without compromise in the idiom understood by his hearers. Paul's address to the Athenians on Mars Hill furnishes modern preachers a model, he suggests.

Uda notes that Paul first made contact with the Greek mind by mentioning their altar and unknown god. Then, "keenly aware of the Greek's monistic view of the cosmos," the apostle "witnesses to the important fact that only in the Biblical outlook the doctrine of the sovereign creator and ruler comes to the fullest expression without compromise."

He asks, "Isn't it often the case that whenever sight is lost of the Biblical revelation on the God of the Bible and man's creatureliness and his abnormality, man's religious imagination will eventually end up either in blending God and nature (i.e. Shinto's polytheistic finite gods) or blending God and the self (i.e. self-deification in Buddhism)?"

The Japanese professor says that proponents of the increasingly influential "political theology" have lost sight of Biblical revelation and "all Christian elements tend to be swallowed up by incorporation into certain political thought and action such as the Marxist idea of social revolution."

Schaeffer, founder and leader of the L'Abri Fellowship which has attracted intellectuals from around the world, describes Christianity as a specific body of truth."

"We must be careful to emphasize content in our messages," Schaeffer advises. "How much content will depend upon the people with whom we are working. In a university setting, the content will be slightly different than in a situation where people are not as educated. Nevertheless, whether we work with a man or woman who is not as educated or whether we work with an intellectual, in all instances, the Gospel we preach must be rich in content."

The Swiss-based Presbyterian theologian warns that Christians must back up their verbal proclamation with their actions. He claims that some evangelical churches have negated their own message by failing to live up to their preaching. He cites the example of congregations which fail to welcome young people with "hippie" patterns of dress and talk and thus, in effect, add to the Biblical requirements for Christian fellowship.

"The evangelical church often will not accept the person with his lifestyle unless it fits into the middle-class norm in that particular geographical location," Schaeffer notes. "Unhappily, we often do not realize what we have done when we do this. It is not only a lack of love. We have destroyed the absolutes of the word of God by making something else equal to God's absolutes."

Peters, professor of world missions at Dallas Seminary, says it "may prove disadvantageous if not disastrous" to try to use the same evangelistic methods in all cultures.

"We do not need renewal of the Gospel," Peter writes, "but we do need continuous renewal of methodology to communicate the age-old Gospel in an intelligible, meaningful and purposeful manner."

The Dallas professor, a Mennonite, illustrates the need for different styles of evangelism: "Culture has cast the mind into a certain mould of thinking. Some cultures are more rational- logical, others meditative-intuitive, still others imaginative-mythological. Our generation is rapidly becoming existential. And it is this cultural mould of mentality that determines principles and practices of communication. Communication does not take place in the same way everywhere."

Peters concludes his paper with a warning that evangelism must "always remain supremely a message" and that methods and structures must remain subordinate and subservient.

A final mailing of four study documents is planned in April. Before coming to the congress, participants will also receive a survey of world evangelization and papers related to the theological and strategy groups to which they will be assigned.

Little, the program director, said that some participants had reported to him that they were sharing the advance texts with faculty colleagues in some educational institutions or with other Christian leaders in their areas. In some regions, all participants are meeting together in advance of the congress to study and pray together. Little lauded these efforts to prepare for the July meeting and to enlarge the study effort beyond those invited to attend the Lausanne gathering. From the beginning, organizers have expressed the hope that the congress would be viewed more as a process than as a single event.

LOIS OTTAWAY, WHEATON PUBLICIST, NAMED 'VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR'

WHEATON, Il. (EP)—Lois Ottaway, director of news services at Wheaton College, has been named Volunteer of the Year by officials of Programmed Activities for Correctional Education (PACE) at Cook County Jail.

Miss Ottaway drives the approximately 25 miles from Wheaton to Cook County Jail, is announced as she walks the "boulevard" to the PACE classroom to teach men aged from 19 to 40 on a one-to-one basis.

MISSIONARY NEWS



FEVER IN BRETHREN AREA

The possibility of a plague seems remote and quite unreal to most of the modern world. However, when news broke announcing Lassa fever it was a terrorizing threat—it could have triggered a worldwide calamity.

The struggle to detect the source of origin, carrier of the disease and a cure is presented most interestingly in **FEVER** by John G. Fuller. The fever was first evidenced at the Lassa Mission hospital in a remote town in Nigeria. It is in this village of thatched-roof mud huts, the Church of the Brethren built a mission in the 1920's to serve the Hausa, Fulani, Margi, Higi and other tribes.

When Doc Shank was in the Missionary Board office in Ashland recently, we shared with him our interest in this new book condensed in the March issue of **READER'S DIGEST.** Doc recalled that Laura Wine had desired serving in missions early in her life but had not gone to Nigeria until her retirement years at 65 years of age. She was the first fatality of Lassa fever and her death was ultimately different than countless others serving in foreign missions. Her death reached half way around the world in peculiar incidents. Doc Shank had been stationed at Lassa in The Brethren Church's cooperative effort in missions with Church of the Brethren. Many of the places and people mentioned in this book were most familiar to him.

When a third mission nurse was laid low with undiagnosable symptoms there was cause for major concern. Procedures for transporting a stretcher case, ice packed tissue and blood specimens, then the ensuing tests by tropical disease specialist in the United States and the dangerous and exciting handling of the project makes very fast reading.

We enjoyed the condensed version in **READER'S DIGEST** but we're anxious to pick up the book distributed by E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc. We admit this is especially fascinating since it deals with familiar places. It also recalls to mind the dangers working in mission fields today as well as the earlier years.

REBECCA'S THIRD LETTER



Dear Folks,

It has been a long, long time since I have written to you, but I surely have a good many reasons for not having done so (can you tell I am growing up? Now I know how to use excuses to cover up my carelessness). But, as I had a baby brother some time ago, it kept me pretty busy, because my mother just can't get along without me. I have to watch her when she feeds him, and eventually finish up his bottles for him (so my mummy won't have to wash them), and I have to sneak out into his bedroom once in a while, just to make certain he won't oversleep. . . .

I am sure though, that you would like to know how I got to have a baby brother. This is going to take some explanations as I had not been able to figure it out myself! Well, one morning I got up and my mummy was not around so I was kind of sad. I got over it pretty fast, though because my daddy took me to "tia negra's house" (Tia negra literally "aunt dark," is the wife of one of the pastors of the church) And at her house was her mother "la abuela" (grandmother) who gives me as many cookies as I want (my mother has all kinds of prejudices against cookies, candies, etc. . . . she says they are not good for you . . . why, I don't know) So I really had a good time. The following day my daddy and my "tata Jojo" (aunt Jojo) took me to the hospital and there was my mummy! Then my father showed me a few babies behind a window glass. They looked kind of cute, but guess what! The next thing I knew is that my mother brought one of them home! Well, to tell the truth I was kind of upset. I know they look kind of cute when they sleep but they are so ugly when they cry, and besides, my mummy just can't hold the two of us in her arms at the same time. I really could not see then, why in the world they would have wanted a baby, but I figured they might have some good reasons. So one day I decided I was going to take a good look at it and guess what! He had hands, feet and eyes, just like you and me. . . . Of course, that was a long time ago, now John Mark (Jean Marc in French and Juan Marcos in Spanish) is getting to be a big boy and it's nice to have him around (most of the time, at least), and my mummy can really hold the two of us at the same time, and that sure is fun . . . (she does not seem to enjoy it too much herself, I wonder why . . .) Anyway my mother tried to teach me something she said was very important. She said "See, Rebecca, sometimes something happens to you and at the time you don't understand why in the world the Lord permitted it because it seems so wrong. But as the time goes by you begin to see His point. That is why you should never rebel." I don't know if I quite understood what she said, but it did sound like something important.

Did I tell you about my "tata Jojo." I have good news to tell about her. When she first came, she was sad and unhappy most of the time. My mummy told me it was because she used to do things that you are not supposed to do. She said **things-that-you-are-not-supposed-to-do** sound like fun, but when you have done them you really get in trouble and it's no fun anymore. For example, when your mummy tells you, you ought not to climb on the chair and you do it anyway, it's fun, but finally you fall down and hurt yourself, then you wish you would have listened to her in the first place, don't you? Well, anyway she accepted the Lord and got baptized in the water (that sure seemed like a lot of fun) and now she is really happy and is going to tell everybody about it when she goes back to France. She even said she wanted to be a missionary; she seems to enjoy missionary life as much as I do.

We have had a lot of visits from your country again. First, my grannie came one day before my baby brother did and for a long time I wondered if she might have had something to do with his arrival . . . as she was around for a while. We went to Bariloche which is a very beautiful town surrounded by mountains and lakes. It surely was beutiful but kind of cold. In spite of the cold weather my parents took me and John Mark (he was 3 weeks old) wherever they went; we even got a ride on the ski lift. The people thought that my parents were kind of crazy but when they found out that my mother was French and my father was North American and that they got married in Spain and had two children born in Argentina, you know, they kind of thought 'what else can you expect from people like that.' Then my uncle Virgil (Virgil Ingraham) came to visit us. He even stayed at our house. My mummy told me I was supposed to behave myself as he was an important uncle. I tried to do my best; I wondered if I made a good impression in him. He did not stay very long because he was very tired. So my mother said we ought to pray for him so he can rest. I hope he will. But, you know adults are not very reasonable. They make us go to bed early at night, take a nap in the afternoon and after they say, "How come those kids run around all the time. They don't ever seem to be

(*continued on next page*)

tired." I am certain they would have as much energy as we do if they would sleep as much.

My mummy and daddy carried us to so many places this year again that I don't know where to start. As I am the only one to write in the family, I have got a lot of work to do. As Uncle John (John Rowsey) says, "It's not fair to let the children do all the work in the family."

Some weeks ago we went to Montevideo with Todd and Heidi Winter; that was a lot of fun. Our daddies were invited to visit a Christian radio station, and you know, our daddies would go anywhere if somebody promises them that they are going to see radios, antennas, amplifiers, etc. . . . whenever anybody pronounces words such as those, you should see their eyes light up. They must be magic words. While we were there, we stayed at a grannie's house and she was very nice. My mummy said that although they were not Brethren, they were missionaries and belonged to our family, too. It is really nice to have relatives all over the world. I really like family life and everybody else seems to enjoy it too. Last week, when we went to the closing exercise of the Bible Institute of Eden, the students said they liked it so much there because they felt they were just one family. That was such a good idea for the Lord to create families; it brings you so much warmth, so much happiness!

The whole missionary family of Argentina (Winter, Aspinall, Miranda and us) gathered for Thanksgiving, so we had a big Thanksgiving dinner. It was good, but it sure was a lot of work for our mothers; in Argentina, Thanksgiving is in Spring and you just can't find the same kind of food down here. So they had to use a lot of substitutes. My mummy thinks it sounds so funny to read the North American cookbooks in Argentina because they say: use this mix, and that instant pudding, and this canned vegetable, etc. Where can I find Betty Crocker "miracle whatever" in my market place? Of course, they have supermarkets but fresh food is a lot cheaper than canned food, and if you want to get something which is not in season you are just out of luck: but, boy, when the strawberries are in season, they sure taste good!

Now our visit to the Bible Institute was our last trip before we take the plane to Colombia first and then to the United States (your place). So, as I know we are going to stay over there for a while, I would like to know if life is going to be as exciting as in Argentina. For example: do you have a "botellero" (junk collector) who walks in the street with a big potato bag and cries out as he goes by your house? They sound so funny! Sometimes they even have a horse pulling a cart and an amplifier so you can hear them better. Do you ride trains and busses? I like riding the train best because it is very interesting; there are all kinds of men who sell you all kinds of cheap things (at least they say it's real cheap) like records, pencils, combs, etc. and candies and ice cream, too. What is sad, though, are the children in ragged clothes who ask for money. Some sing, others give you pictures of saints, and others plainly ask. I am so lucky I don't have to do that. Do you go shopping every day with your mummy? I sure like it. First we go to the butcher's shop to get our meat. He is a real nice man and has a bird and a big dog and carries me in his arms. Whatever piece of meat my mother wants, he always cuts in front of her so she can see what she is getting. Especially when she asks for ground meat, she watches him put it in the grinder just to make sure he does not put too many fat cuts in it. That is why the people here don't like to go to the supermarket because they can't be sure of what they are getting.

Then we go to the grocery store, where we buy milk, eggs, cheese, rice, noodles (hum!) and a lot of other things. I like that store very much because the lady is real nice; she always gives me cookies (not always, but when she forgets I make sure to remind her. My mother does not think it is a very good idea but I am sure the lady does not mind. You see, this is the advantage of knowing French. She thinks I am so smart because I can say "merci," then I get whatever I want; and if saying "merci" is all it takes, I will say it as many times as she wants me to. You know, it is really funny the way grown ups think. They all think so much of my speaking French, but if your mummy were French what else would you speak? Then we go to the vegetable and fruit stand. "Don Luis" speaks French himself so whenever there are other customers in his store he always speaks French to me or to my mummy. I wonder why he does not want to speak to me in Spanish like everybody else; maybe he is just showing off. I don't mind as long as I get my "banana" by saying "merci" or "gracias" and I even say "thank you" when I want an extra one. It is really handy sometimes to speak several languages. Finally we have to go by the candy store to go home, there is my last and newest friend, the candy lady. She likes me very much and she is a fanatic of the "merci beaucoup" and so on. I have to repeat it two or three times, and then she gives me a lot of kisses telling me how sweet I am, and finally comes the reward—a piece of candy. So we go home and my mother always wonders how come I am not very hungry for lunch.

Besides going shopping there are a lot of other ways to entertain yourself in Argentina—like playing in the water. Do they have nice washing machines in the States, you know, the kind that leaks all the time and no matter how many times your daddy fixes it it still leaks and if it does not, your mother forgets to turn off the spicket when it is full so the water runs all over the place and you still get to play in the water?

But what I really enjoy most in Argentina is going to church and my parents sure know it, because on Saturday night (for the youth meeting) and Sunday morning it sounds like this:

"Rebecca, do you want to go to church?"

"Yes."

"O.K. then, eat your supper."

"Rebecca, do you want to go to church?"

"O.K. then, stay still while I am putting your clothes on."

But, I don't mind as long as I get to go. The reason why I like to go so much is because I get to ride the bus and the train. Then I enjoy seeing all my friends and singing. I like to pray too, and it's fun to peep through your fingers and look at each other, when you sit by one of your friends.

I am sure though that it is going to be fun to be in the States because of the way my mummy

talks about it; she says that I am going to have a lot of candies and a lot of cookies and a lot of toys and that I am going to be very spoiled. And when she says that, she always sighs and makes a face. Well, the same way my father does when something breaks down and he says "Industria Argentina" (Argentine manufactured). So I guess, no country is perfect! But if it is going to be the way my mother says it is, I am sure I will like it.

Now it's not going to be that easy for us all to go back to the States. My daddy has been very busy trying to get all the papers we are going to need: an Argentine passport for me and my baby brother, and our identification cards, an exit permit for my daddy, my mummy and my tata Jojo, identification cards for each of them and vaccination certificates for everybody. Of course, this is just to be able to leave Argentina. Now to get in the United States we will need for my baby brother and me the U.S. passports, as well as my father. My mummy is going to need an emigrant visa and my tata Jojo a tourist visa! Altogether: 7 passports, 5 I.D., 5 vaccination certificates, 3 exit permits, and 2 visas! Doesn't that sound like a complicated world to you? It would be nicer if there was no border to cross, no fingerprints to take, if just everybody would trust everybody. My mummy says that, some day when the Lord comes back, that's the way it's going to be . . . I surely wish is could be tonight, don't you?

—Rebecca Chantal Logan

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



ABOUT LEARNING CENTERS (Part 3)

Whenever a "Part 3" appears, naturally it means that "Part 1" and "Part 2" already appeared in an earlier issue. Do you recall them?

PART 1 of this series about the Learning Center Approach to Christian Education listed some Basic Assumptions ABOUT CHILDREN. How they are individually unique in ability, background and learning style. How they are happiest when they are able to discover their unique gifts from God. How they need to respond to God individually. How they need adult attention and affection in some very special adult-child relationships.

PART 2 (in the last issue of **The Brethren Evangelist**) mentioned some Basic Assumptions ABOUT LEARNING. Such factors as the need for Bible learning in every community . . . we learn best what we do . . . everyone doesn't have to do the same thing at the same time in a classroom . . . learning that is enjoyable is the best kind.

Now this PART 3 lists

Basic Assumptions About Learning Centers

- **The environment or total impression the room gives is tremendously important.
- **Children need freedom of movement and choice in order to learn.
- **Each Learning Center should have a variety of activity centers, all of which offer interesting opportunities for the child to learn.
- **Each child is encouraged to set his own goals, based on the learning opportunities available, and then work at his own speed.
- **Activities are selected and set up according to the basic objectives and goals of the planning group.
- **As long as the children don't interfere with others, they may choose their own sequence of learning activities.

Although all three segments in this series dealt with aspects of Learning Center learning, this last listing (above) zeros-in on some principles of operation for the "Center" itself—all of which are based on the Basic Assumptions About CHILDREN and the Basic Assumptions About LEARNING (which must come first in the planning).

We feel that these factors should be considered by every group of Christian Educators establishing a Learning Center—plus those additional factors that they will discover in the process of creating an exciting learning environment of their own.

—Phil

LEARNING CENTER RESOURCES

60-Minute Tape Recording and Guide Sheets: ($2.50 for rental; $4.50 for purchase). Explains the Learning Center "philosophy" of Brethren House, along with a floor plan and many specific examples of teaching tools and approaches. Listeners work through the tape on the Guide Sheet. Be sure to request one Guide Sheet for each listener!

Learning Center Slides and Taped Narration (23 minutes): ($2.50 for rental). Using colored slide-pictures, primarily of the 1973 General Conference Children's Learning Center, the B. H. staff describes the activities there and discusses several basic Learning Center concepts—plus some practical suggestions for getting a Learning Center started. Designed for Teacher Training & general information. Be sure to give a showing date and an alternate date when ordering.

Order **these** resources from:
Brethren House
6301 56th Avenue, N.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

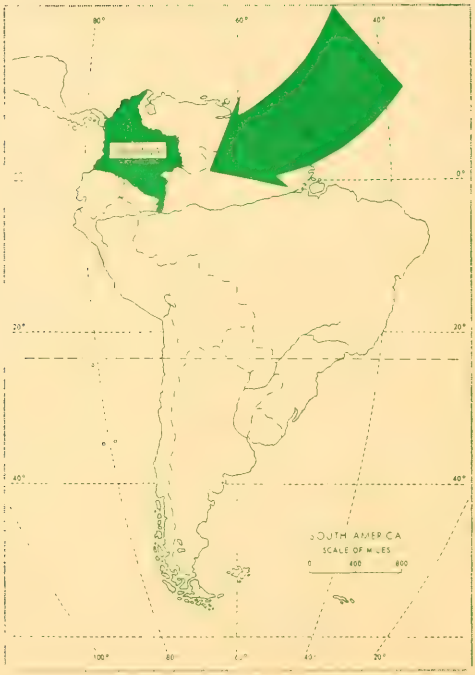
Come and See—Brethren House: 32 color slides and 20 minute cassette narration presenting an introduction to Brethren House and the work in St. Petersburgh.

Learning Center at General Conference 1972: a Super 8 motion picture with cassette narration lasting 14 minutes and taken of the Learning Center during General Conference in 1972.

Order **these** resources free of charge from:
The Missionary Board
530 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

OPERATION SOWING

by Kenneth L. Solomon



Luke 8: 5, 8—**"A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW THE SEED:" "THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD."**

In Matthew 13:38 we found that we—the born again believers—are the "GOOD SEED" that the "SON OF MAN is sowing in His "FIELD . . . THE WORLD." NOW, here in the Gospel of Luke, we find that the "seed" is the "WORD OF GOD." **How is it to be sown?**

I'm not sure I have the last word on **all** the ways it is to be sown **but** I **do know** that I am responsible to seek the leading of the HOLY SPIRIT and to sow the seed in any way and every way He directs **me** to do so.

Here in Colombia we are using the following means so far:

WORD OF MOUTH

Daily (if one is walking and riding public transportation instead of alone in his own car) there are ample opportunities of conversing with people who are "hungering and thirsting after righteousness." One of the experiences that comes to mind sounds like a repetition of Acts 8:31 where the Ethiopian eunich responded to Philip's question—"UNDERSTANDEST THOU WHAT THOU READEST?" with these words:—"HOW CAN I, EXCEPT SOME MAN SHOULD GUIDE ME?"

It happened this way. As I returned from taking the two youngest to school I greeted a neighbor standing in front of his house, to whom I had given tracts previously. I immediately felt led to not only greet him and continue my journey home but to stop and chat awhile with him. Among other things he said the following, "I read the tracts you gave me but couldn't get the most good out of them since I didn't know how to look up the Bible references given. Besides, it looks as if I am going to die ignorant since I have **no one to teach me.**" You can imagine the thrill to the missionary to have the door of opportunity thus to open so widely. And so it will be for ALL those willing and desirous to take time to speak for the Lord. Like this one we have had many, many such opportunities.

GOSPEL TRACTS

This method has long since gone out of "style" with most Christians in the USA. And those who continue to use it are looked upon as rather "queer" or religious "fanatics." And it is no wonder since practically no one reads any more. **But not here.** Fortunately, as in Argentina, the Colombians are eager to receive and read anything given them. So we must make certain they receive the best and proper literature. It is thrilling and amazing how many tracts a single person can give out in one day if he cultivates the practice of giving to ALL with whom he (or she) has contact: in the grocery store, bank, other business establishments, bus or taxi drivers, bill collectors, meterman, garbageman, repairman or plumber, the paper boy, etc., etc.

The promise of God is:—"HE WHICH SOWETH BOUNTIFULLY SHALL REAP ALSO BOUNTIFULLY" (II Cor. 9:6)

It is a thrill when they begin to expect another tract and are disappointed if one has run out or hasn't a new one for them. But it is also sad for the one who makes this a part of his ample ministry of "sowing the seed of the Gospel." It is sad when one runs out of tracts (or forgets to take them when he changes suit coats or purse) and has nothing to leave the person. To one who has experienced the joy of giving in this way it makes him feel as if he is "cheating" the other person if he doesn't have a written Gospel message to give him, and ONLY GOD KNOWS HOW MANY HAVE BEEN CONVERTED BECAUSE OF ONLY ONE SMALL TRACT GIVEN IN LOVING CONCERN AND PRAYED OVER. God blesses every and any effort, no matter how small and insignificant it might seem to man, to win the lost for it is revealed that He is "NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH, BUT THAT ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTENCE." (II Peter 3:9). This is His expressed desire. What are **you** doing to bring it about??? IF you have a better and more successful method for winning the lost then you should, by all means, use **that** method. BUT, if you don't then why not begin right **now** to use this one **that God has blessed?**

PREPARING SOWERS

One other very important method is the presentation of others to become the "SOWER" that goes forth. In Ephesians 4:11b, we find revealed that we "Pastors and teachers (or Pastor-teachers) have been given to the Church for the purpose of "PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY." Therefore, I accepted the invitation to be a part of the teaching staff of the Union Seminary here in Medellin, and am now involved in teaching eight very promising young men to be "sowers" of the seed and to be able to inspire and train others to do and be the same. FAR TOO LONG HAS THE PASTOR HIMSELF DONE THE "work of the ministry" INSTEAD OF HIS ASSIGNED JOB OF "preparing the **saints** for the work of the ministry." And thus the Protestant church has returned to the Roman Catholic practice of the PRIESTHOOD OF **ONE** BELIEVER — The priest or pastor — INSTEAD OF THE PRIESTHOOD OF **ALL** BELIEVERS. By God's grace, and having had my eyes opened to this failure in most Protestant churches of this twentieth century, I shall do all in my power to see that the new Brethren Church in Columbia is begun and maintained in the Apostolic tradition and practice of the Priesthood of ALL believers.

ARE **YOU** YIELDING YOURSELF TO GOD AS THE "GOOD SEED" THAT HE HAS PLANTED RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE??? ARE YOU FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE LORD JESUS IN THE WONDERFUL TASK OF SOWING THE GLORIOUS SEED OF THE GOSPEL EVERYWHERE AND ABUNDANTLY???

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY AT GENERAL CONFERENCE



During the 1974 General Conference in Ashland, Ohio an opportunity will be given for a select group to participate in a training program of **LAYMEN ALIVE** under the direction of Rev. Arden Gilmer. Rev. Gilmer has been trained by Campus Crusade for their LIFE Institutes under the sponsorship of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church and through the cooperation of the church he serves as pastor, the Pleasant View Brethren Church of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. The **LAYMEN ALIVE** program is an adaptation of this training, for use in the Brethren Church and especially for our Brethren Home Mission churches.

However, during General Conference a **limited** number of Brethren will be allowed to participate in five, three hour **LAYMEN ALIVE** training sessions. Watch the next issues of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST for details of how **YOU** might be a part of this special group.

news ... from the Brethren

Memorials

RITCHIE

Mrs. Bessie Ellen Ritchie 91, Harrisonburg, Virginia, went to be with her Lord on March 10, 1974. She was a faithful member of the Bethlehem Brethren Church, and a member of the Woman's Missionary Society.

She is survived by six children (two children preceded her in death), one step-daughter, 24 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. C. Y. Gilmer.

Her pastor, Rev. John F. Locke

* * *

COX

Mr. Robert Lee Cox 52, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, was killed in a tractor-trailer accident near Clarion, Pennsylvania on November 27, 1973. He was a faithful, life-long member of the Bethlehem Brethren Church. Surviving are his wife, Sarah, daughter Carolyn Wilson, daughter Roberta Cox, one sister Mrs. Jane Kline. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. C. Y. Gilmer and Rev. Marlin L. McCann.

His pastor, Rev. John F. Locke

* * *

WENGER

Mr. Charles Logan Wenger 38, Linville, Virginia, went to be with his Lord on January 26, 1974. He was a faithful, life-long member of the Bethlehem Brethren Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia. He also attended the Greenmount Church of the Brethren, Linville, Virginia.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, daughter Sandra Kay, son Charles L. Wenger II, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Logan Wenger, one brother, George L. Wenger. The funeral was conducted at the Greenmount Church of the Brethren, Linville, Virginia by Rev. C. Y. Gilmer, Rev. Raymond Shoemaker, and Rev. Bobby Phillips.

His pastor, Rev. John F. Locke



COMING REVIVALS:

May 5-10 — Hagerstown, Maryland Brethren Church — Dr. J. D. Hamel, Evangelist; Rev. John Mills, Pastor

May 12-17 — Mathias, West Virginia — Dr. J. D. Hamel, Evangelist sponsored by Greater Mathias Area Ministerial Association



Eric Vaughn was born March 20, to Rev. and Mrs. Rex McConahay. Rev. McConahay pastors the Linwood, Maryland Church.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Miller celebrated their 56th Wedding Anniversary on March 7, 1974.

Sarasota, Florida

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kershner observed their 60th Wedding Anniversary on March 1, 1974.

Sarasota, Florida



ADVANCE NOTICE REGARDING RECEIVING OF 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE CREDENTIALS

The 1974 General Conference Membership Committee, in an effort to expedite the receiving of credentials, and in an effort to have delegates seated as early in the business session as possible, has discussed and agreed upon the following procedures:

1. **Times for Receiving of Credentials**—Inasmuch as many delegates arrive in Ashland either on Sunday evening or Monday morning or early afternoon, it was felt that the usual congestion at the registration table on Monday evening could be alleviated by having additional hours for the presenting of credentials on Monday. Therefore some members of the Membership Committee will be present to receive credentials on Monday afternoon from 2:00 until 4:30 o'clock. Credentials will also be received throughout Monday evening from 6:00 until 9:00 P.M.

On Tuesday credentials will be received from 7:45 A.M. until 8:15 A.M. and also in the evening from 6:00 to 6:45, and from 9:00 until 9:30. From Wednesday through Saturday the Membership Committee will be prepared to receive credentials from 7:45 until 8:15 A.M. and from 9:00 until 9:30 P.M.

2. **Credential Fees**—In the past some delay has been caused by the fact that delegates have appeared to present their credentials before the check to cover the credential fees has been received by the Membership Committee. Since the Membership Committee cannot accept credentials without the credential fee these Brethren have had to delay registering until the individual with the check arrives on the scene. In an effort to prevent this situation from arising this year the Membership Committee is asking that the person responsible for making out the check for these fees do so several weeks prior to General Conference and that this check be sent to the Central Council office at least a week before the opening of General Conference. Although each congregation might not know who their delegates are going to be at that time, they do know how many delegates their church is allowed, and the check for this number of delegate fees could be sent in. If all churches will cooperate in this it will not be necessary for any delegates to have to wait for the acceptance of their credentials.

3. Several members of the Membership Committee have agreed to do some of the "book work" which must be done in connection with the registering of delegates before Conference convenes. This will make it possible for the committee to be ready to get right to the business of registering delegates as soon as the registration table opens —instead of having to locate certain books, lists, etc. while folks are coming to present credentials. We appreciate this willingness on the part of these Brethren to do this "homework" prior to the opening of General Conference.

4. When the General Conference secretary sends out the credentials we are hoping to include a reminder to local church leaders concerning the sending in of their credential fees before the time of Conference. When this "reminder" reaches the proper church leaders we trust that they will do all that they can to cooperate in this new procedure.

There may be other changes forthcoming—If so we hope that they will be for the improvement of our registration procedures. Your help will be appreciated.

Henry Bates - Chairman
GENERAL CONFERENCE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

SIGNAL LIGHTS' STORIES FOR MAY

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE
MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

FROM FIELD TO PALACE

David was once a boy like you. He played with his brothers. He ran through the fields. He cuddled the lambs in his father's flock.

One day his father said, "David, you are old enough to watch the sheep for me."

David was pleased that Father was trusting him with the flock. "I'll take good care of them. I'll find the best grass and water for them every day."

"You must do more than that," said Father. "You will need to keep wild animals from stealing any of the sheep. You will need to watch carefully so none of the lambs wander away."

"I can do that," replied David.

David took his sling to the field with him. When he saw a wild animal trying to sneak up on a sheep he would put a stone in the sling. Then he would swing it around and around. Suddenly he would let go of one end. Away sailed the stone, straight to the animal. Then away went the animal howling in pain and fright. He didn't get any of David's sheep for his dinner!

David took his harp to the field with him, too. When the sheep were resting he sat on the grass with them. He played his harp and sang. Often he made up the songs he sang. They were songs about God and His loving care. You probably know one of David's songs. "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want."

Not far from David's home was the palace. In it lived the king. He was sick and unhappy.

"He needs someone to play the harp and sing to him," said the doctor. "That would cheer him."

"I know just the one," said a servant. "David, the shepherd boy."

A messenger was sent to bring David to the palace.

When David entered the throne room he bowed to the king. Then he sat down and began to play his harp and to sing. He sang about the fields and the sheep. He sang about God and His loving care.

King Saul smiled for the first time in weeks. "I want you to stay with me," he said to David.

So another messenger was sent to David's home. "King Saul is much better when David plays for him," the messenger told David's father. "Please let David stay at the palace."

"He may stay as long as King Saul needs him," said David's father.

So David stayed at the palace to play and sing for the king.

Many years later he became the king. Even then he played his harp and sang songs of praise to God.

—Based on I Samuel 16:10-23; 17:34-35

Memory Scripture: Psalm 1:1

ANGRY NEIGHBORS

One evening Rev. Jones said, "Tomorrow Rev. Lowe and I will start on our preaching mission. We will be gone two weeks."

"I know," said Jack. "I wish I could go with you."

"It would be good to have you along, son," said Rev. Jones, "but you have school and Mom will need you to help with the work here."

"Yes," said Mrs. Jones, "We will need to do the park meetings everyday after school and the Sunday services, too."

"I will help," said Jack. "What can I do?"

"Right now," answered Dad, "you can help load the car. These are the boxes of puppets, pictures, books and other materials I will need."

"All of these?" asked Jack. He picked up a box and followed Dad to the car.

A half hour later they squeezed the last box into the trunk and closed the lid.

"Thanks, Jack, that was a big help," said Dad.

The next morning when Jack got up Dad was already gone.

"He left about five o'clock," said Mom.

Things went as usual for several days—school, meetings in the park, playing, and homework.

Then one evening just as Mom and Jack were finishing supper they heard angry voices outside their door.

"This is the place. This is where the evangelicos live."

"Let's show them we don't want them here."

"Break down the door."

"What shall we do?" asked Jack in a frightened voice.

"I'll try to talk to them," said Mom. "You pray."

"Please, God, help us," prayed Jack as he followed Mom to the door.

"Hello," called Mom without opening the door. "Who is it?"

"We're your neighbors," answered a gruff voice. "We don't like evangelicos."

"You don't know us," replied Mom. "How can you say you don't like us?"

"You are evil people and you don't worship God as you should," answered another angry voice. "Let's break the door down."

Then Mom and Jack heard another voice.

"Wait Dad! Juan! Don't do that!"

"It's Antonio," said Jack.

"Please don't hurt these people. They are my friends," said Antonio.

"Friends! What kind of friends are evangelicos?" asked his father.

"Good friends," replied Antonio. "Come home with me and I will tell you about them. Then next week when Rev. Jones is home you can talk with him."

"Well, all right," said his dad. "Come, Juan, we will go home and hear what your young brother has to tell us about the evangelicos."

As the footsteps went away from the house Mom and Jack hugged each other and said, "Thank You, God! Thank You!"

IT'S ABOUT TIME!

I said to my friend when he went to church;
"When you pray please pray for me too,
Just now I have so many tasks—
I'll go—and pray when I get through.
I'm sure God knows what it's like here below
And He'll answer your prayer for me I know."
I said to my friend when he went to church;
"Remember the sermon for the day
That you can come home and tell me
What the minister had to say—
For I was out late—so late last night,
I'm sure with the Lord this will be alright."
I said to my friend when he went to church;
"With you in spirit I'll be there;
Just bring home a little of something good
Like God's spiritual food to share.
There are many things I must needs do first,
I want to enjoy things on this earth."
When the end of life came for my friend and I,
When we arrived at Heaven's gate
The angel said, "Friend come right in."
But for me the angel said, "It's too late!
Many things on earth you had to do—
Now at Heaven's gate I can't let you through!"

Ruth DeLozier

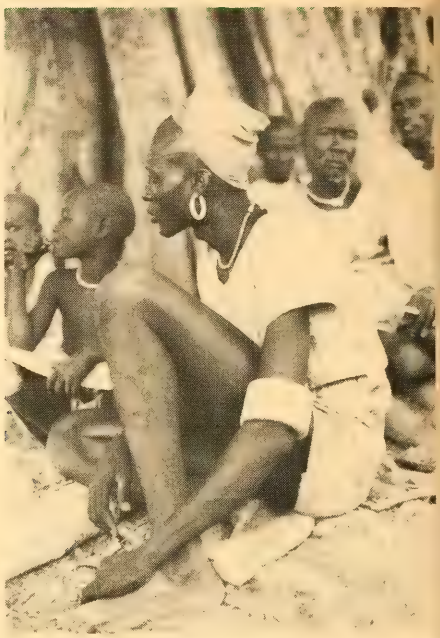
WORLD RELIEF "Quick" REPORT

by Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee

Sudan

Recovery of Southern Sudan from a 16-year civil war is continuing with the help of the Africa Committee for Rehabilitation of Southern Sudan (ACROSS), a united evangelical effort.

The World Relief Commission (including the Brethren Church) supports ACROSS with funds used to help resettle refugees, provide medicines and hospital equipment, and sewing Project Dorcas which uses local material to produce relief clothing.



Typical Sudanese man, at Cweibeit, where ACROSS opened its 1st dispensary. Children probably waiting for treatment. So many people came to the clinic that treatment had to be restricted to children.

WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION PRODUCES AFRICAN FAMINE FILM

Valley Forge, Pa.—NAE's World Relief Commission will premiere their newest sound-color film, AFRICA, DRY EDGE OF DISASTER, at the National Association of Evangelicals Convention in Boston, April 24.

WRC's latest sound/color film shows the effects of long and widespread famine afflicting six sub-Sahara countries, Sudan, and Ethiopia—a drought-stricken belt extending from the Atlantic to the India Ocean. People are existing on only five ounces of grain per day, when they can get it.

Scanty or no rainfall in five years, coupled with the Sahara Desert shifting at the rate of 35 miles a year, has brought severe drought resulting in serious famine and refugee problems to millions of people.

"If sufficient action isn't taken in the next few months, countries could disappear from the face of the map. I have never been so shaken by what I have seen in all my life," comments Mr. Kurt Waldheim, Sec. General of the U.N., on his African visit.

This new film vividly portrays the fight for life by a symbolic farm family and the nomadic Tuaregs; and the effort the Commission is making through evangelical missionaries and national church personnel to relieve some of the dire suffering.

Dr. Sherwood Wirt, editor of DECISION magazine published by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc., said after viewing the film, "This is one of the finest visualizations of Christianity in action I have ever witnessed. I commend the World Relief Commission for this document of human need, so ably directed and produced and so powerful in its appeal."

Dr. H. Wilbert Norton, Dean of Wheaton Graduate School thinks it is "A sobering realistic film that commands our involvement."

Managing Editor of CHRISTIANITY TODAY, Mr. David E. Kucharsky, states: "This is a film which needs to be viewed by every affluent American."

NAE's Executive Director, Dr. Billy Melvin said: "I have never seen a more compelling film."

This documentary was made by Ford Motor Company professional cinematographers, Mr. William Baker and Mr. John Holstrom, who donated their skills and Christmas/New Years vacation. Rev. Richard Pendell of WRC headquarters co-ordinated the filming, assisted by Rev. Peter Unruh, WRC board member and pastor of Minneapolis Wooddale Baptist Church (Swedish Conference).

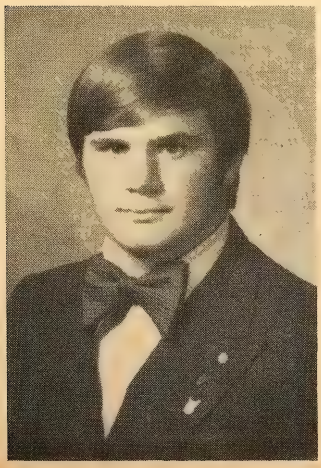
The Commission is stockpiling grain in cities, towns and villages, in anticipation of even greater scarcity before the hoped-for October harvest. Long-range plans to help break the drought cycle include deep-well digging, improved food production, animal replacement and reforestation.

WRC audio-visuals are available to church and community groups on a free-will offering basis by writing WRC, P.O. Box 44, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

"OUTSTANDING TEEN"

IN 'WHO'S WHO'

CAMERON STUDENT GETS DUAL HONOR



Fred Williams, son of Postmaster and Mrs. Louis F. Williams of High Street has been selected by two publications who honor high school students.

Williams' name will appear in "Who's Who in National Athletics," and also, in "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

The Cameron High School senior is among the "top ten" in his class, and during his high school career has participated in football, wrestling and track.

Williams is vice president of his class, a member of the C-Club, the Junior Classical League, the Science Club, the school chorus, Madrigal Choir, president of the Thespians chapter, and president of the Hi-Liters 4-H Club.

The honoree has been selected for the year to be a member of the West Virginia All-State Chorus.

Williams is active in the Cameron Brethren Church where he is a member of the youth group.

He recently spent three days in Charleston after being selected as one of the 16 Marshall County winners in the Government Action Program.

Fred has been chosen as a counselor for Boys State at Jackson's Mill, June 16-24.

He plans to attend West Virginia University where he will major in accounting and business administration.

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR MAY

BUGGING DEVICE FOR POLAR BEAR

We're glad to observe that all "bugging" devices are not "Watergate-oriented."

A recent newspaper showed a picture of a girl in Scottsdale, Arizona, placing a collar around the neck of a polar bear. The collar has an antenna which is attached beneath the bear's chin.

The plan is that after the bear has been set free in the Artic region, his movements will be tracked by satellite through the cooperation of NASA. The study is being done for the Alaska Game Department to gain new knowledge of the habits of polar bears in their natural environment.

To many of us it seems fantastic that a satellite can track this bear through unknown regions and reveal the behavior of the animal with no person anywhere around! What advances science has made! The average person cannot explain the mysteries of radar, and yet we believe the reports. We simply say: "It is wonderful!"

We are glad for all the knowledge man can acquire to detect helpful information; but the wonder of man's accomplishments only magnifies the greatness of our Creator!

Hebrews 4:13 informs us: "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." And in Psalm 50:11, the Lord tells us: "I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beast of the field are mine." He doesn't need bugging devices either!

He who knows every beast and its habits, also knows every detail of every person! Read Psalm 139. "O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me, Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest (searchest out) my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways" (Verses 1-3).

It is marvelous that the Lord knows all about us; but it is even more marvelous that knowing all about us He still loves us and wants a response from us! The Lord gave the greatest manifestation of His love when He allowed the Lord Jesus to come to earth to die for ur sins on the Cross of Calvary.

We cannot boast of our goodness before Him—or even of our knowledge—but we can fall back on His mercy and render to Him love from the heart. As we accept the redemption provided through Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Then—we may have direct contact with Him through prayer. That is even more wonderful and more satisfying than the mere fact that He knows all about us!

"If Radio's slim fingers can pluck a melody
from the night
And toss it over continent or sea,
If the petal white notes of a violin
Can be blown across a mountain or city's din;
If songs, like crimson roses, are culled from
the thin blue air,
Why should mortals wonder that God
hears prayers?"



OUR ROBIN

Someone built a nest in our evergreen tree,
Outside our window for us to see.
Mrs. Robin was her name.
And through the weeks she became quite tame.
To watch her build was quite a thrill.
Mud she carried in her bill.
We liked to watch her come and go,
Placing grass and mud just so.
She made her nest smooth and round
To keep her eggs safe and sound.
Then she sat through wind and storm,
To keep the eggs both dry and warm.
One day we saw a bill appear
Above the nest so very near.
Then the bill would open wide,
So the mother could drop a worm inside.
The father robin carried food
To help her feed the little brood.
And right there through our window
We could watch them grow and grow.
They grew so fast that one day
They flapped their wings and flew away.
And now we see them on the ground
Hop, hop, hopping all around.
When springtime comes again next year
We'll be looking for you here.
Won't you come to our evergreen tree
And build your nest for us to see?

Florence Roby



CHURCH NEWS

JONES MILLS, PENNSYLVANIA

In the fall of 1883, Elder J. B. Wampler organized the Valley Brethren Church of Jones Mills, Pennsylvania. Within two years the modest building shown here was erected and the Brethren were firmly established in the region known as the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania.



For Eighty-nine years this building has served as the meeting place for those people who wish to gather each Lord's day to worship their God.

During the last ten years the picturesque mountain sides have reflected a phenomenal growth and the Brethren have seen the need for larger and better facilities. If the Brethren Church in Jones Mills was to continue to serve its purpose, Sunday School rooms would have to be built, sanitation facilities were also needed along with more adequate parking.

Like many small Churches who cling to the past their problem created many other problems. More ground was needed and it was not available at the present location. This made it necessary to build a complete new plant at another location. The age old problem of finances reared its head and doubts began to be felt as to whether it would be possible to build for the future or even advisable.

Then the Lord stepped in and Brother Ora Stahl and his wife Pearl gave two acres of land to be used for the Lord and His work; land that is selling for around three thousand dollars an acre in the area.



This was only the beginning of seeing a most gracious God opening door after door. There is still a long way to go, but with God's help as He prompts others to service and prayer the Brethren Church will be a beacon of light for many years to come in this area.



Great strides have already been taken, as the accompanying pictures point out. The land has been cleared, rough grading finished, incorporation completed, permits awarded, engineering complete, top soil removed from the building site and a large portion of materials on hand for actual construction.

With God's help we hope to have the building under roof by this fall. When completed there will be room for twelve Sunday School classes, with the main sanctuary seating two hundred comfortably. The completed building will be valued at approximately one hundred thousand dollars, so we solicit your prayers that the Lord will continue to bless the Brethren of the Laurel Highlands as they seek to build for the future as well as the present.

The Valley Brethren Church
Jones Mills, Pa.

Elder C. M. Hesketh, Pastor

TRINITY BRETHREN — CANTON, OHIO

The Trinity Brethren Church held its dedication service for the new $50,000 Educational Unit addition on January 27, 1974. The new facilities provide a cradle room; a class room for pre-schoolers and two additional class rooms for adults. The latter two rooms are furnished and decorated in a manner that they may also be utilized as an assembly room for class meetings, Bible Study Groups, and other social gatherings.

Rev. Robert Keplinger, Pastor of The Brethren Church in Washington D.C. presented the dedication sermon at the morning service and Rev. P. Keith Bennett, pastor of The First Brethren Church in South Bend, Indiana gave the sermon at the afternoon service. Both were pastors of the Trinity Brethren Church. Rev. Keplinger was serving as pastor when the church relocated to the present site.

The following served on the various committees in charge of promoting the construction of the new educational unit. Building Committee: Carl Howenstine, Chm.; Tom Stoffer; John Clapper; David Garber; Donna Barnes; Robert Workinger and Rev. John Byler. Building Fund Treasurer, Edgar L. Heist. Finance Committee Chairman, Harland D. Clapper. Architect was Ralph Dix.



The photograph portrays Rev. John Byler, Pastor of Trinity Brethren and the two former pastors, Rev. Keplinger and Rev. Bennett standing behind the cake fashioned into a replica of the church as it presently appears. The cake was baked by Mrs. Robert Workinger. Tables, lamps and sofas for the new rooms were provided as gifts from the Family Circle Sunday-School Class.

BRUSH VALLEY BRETHREN CHURCH

REVIVAL AT BRUSH VALLEY

Rev. Norman Long, pastor of the Pittsburgh Brethren Church was the Evangelist for a week of Revival Services which were held at the Brush Valley Brethren Church from March 10-15. The average attendance for the week's services was 93. We all enjoyed the beautiful Spirit of Love that God gave us.

We pray the Spirit of Revival will continue upon us as we continue to strive to bring Glory to Jesus Christ.

JOINT BAPTISMAL SERVICE

A joint baptismal service, the first undertaken by the Center Hill Church of the Brethren and our own Brush Valley Brethren Church was held on Sunday Evening March 24. There were 15 candidates for this service presented, 10 from Brush Valley and 5 from the Center Hill church.

The bond of fellowship and solemnity of the occasion was expressed by the candidates and attending members which provided pastors Tom Kidder of the Brush Valley church and Clayton Gehman of the Church of the Brethren with the incentive to plan similar joint services in the future.



World Religious News in Review

FAMILY GAINS AS TV APPEAL LEVELS OFF

PRINCETON, N. J. (EP)—George Gallup has discovered that watching TV remains the most popular evening pastime of about half of Americans, but that the proportion has not increased since a 1966 survey.

He found on the other hand that engaging in family activities at home is now the favorite way of spending an evening for twice the number of people since the 1966 survey.

Reading was the highest on the 1938 list, followed by the movies, the theater, and dancing. Each of these pastimes dropped sharply in the next survey—1960. TV had dominated the list for some 28 per cent.

His American Institute of Public Opinion lists 1974 percentages of response to the question, "What is your favorite way of spending an evening?"

Watching television (46%); Reading (14%); Dining out (12%); Family activities at home (10%); Movies/theater (9%); Resting/relaxation (8%); Visiting friends (8%); Entertaining friends (8%); Playing cards/games (8%); Participating in sports (5%); Listening to radio/records (5%); Dancing (4%); Sewing (3%); Working in home workshop (3%); Club or church meetings (3%); Other responses (9%).

The college-educated group was found more likely to cite favorite evening pastimes as entertaining friends, dining out, and attending movies or the theater.

GRAHAM FOR EUROPEAN YOUTH EVENT, SUMMER 1975

(OSLO, April 4, 1974) Billy Graham is to speak at an international Christian youth event in Europe in the summer of 1975. The announcement was made this week by Dr. Ingulf Diesen, President of Norway's Mission Covenant Church. The evangelist accepted an invitation issued by a group of clergy and laymen from sixteen countries, meeting in Paris. The meeting followed a series of consultations among church and youth leaders in many European countries.

Spanish evangelist, Juan Gili from Barcelona proposed a motion at the Paris meeting, seconded by Herbert Muller, Manager of the New Life Mission in Altenkirchen, Germany. The motion, which was passed unanimously, reads: "In response to the spontaneous encouragement of Christians across Europe, we invite Dr. Billy Graham, with the assistance of his organization, to co-operate in the planning of a Christian youth event in Europe in July 1975, and to be one of its featured speakers, at a venue yet to be decided."

Dr. Diesen, who was asked by the Paris gathering to head a nominating committee, explained that further consultations will precede the choice of an executive committee. While the help of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has been requested, it will be in co-operation with other interested groups.

Dr. Diesen said, "It was evident at our meeting that there is a groundswell of interest in this whole concept. Such interest usually grows as preparations proceed but this time there is a high level of enthusiasm already. Billy Graham is remarkably popular with young people. Even though he is fifty-five, he was most enthusiastically accepted at the youth centred SPRE-E '73 in England last summer. Statistics for his Crusades show that a greater percentage of young people are attending than ever before."

The main objectives of the event, according to Dr. Diesen, will be Bible teaching and training for Christian life and witness, as well as an evangelistic outreach. It was the hope of the Paris meeting that the gathering will be a spiritual catalyst for young people to become fully involved in the continuing evangelization of Europe.

Replying to the group's invitation, Mr. Graham stated: "I believe there are two major reasons for the interest in this idea. First, I sense a great feeling of insecurity and uncertainty among the peoples of the world, including those in Europe. Secondly, responsible Christian leadership is recognizing this and realizing that present opportunities for such an event may be short-lived. A few years ago we may not have seen unanimous agreement from such a representative group of Europeans but today there is a new urgency which supercedes the reticence and inhibitions of yesterday. I'm encouraged by their determination and vision, and I'm ready to pledge my complete and utmost co-operation."

Participants in the decision to plan the event included churchmen from: Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Further information from:

Dr. Ingulf Diesen
c/o Box 240
1000 Lausanne 17
Switzerland
(021) 21.39.39.

UNDERGROUND EVANGELISM ANSWERS 'CHRISTIANITY TODAY' CHARGE THAT SMUGGLERS ARE DECEIVERS

GLENDALE, Calif. (EP)—Should Christians refrain from smuggling Bibles into Communist countries because the state law forbids the action?

Yes, says a March 1 editorial in Christianity Today, or be a hypocrite. No, replies Underground Evangelism, because believers should obey God rather than man.

George F. Santa, speaking for Underground Evangelism, cited a history of clandestine Christian efforts that brought the faith through the Catacombs of Rome and the Bible to Britain hidden in merchandise illegally and eventually to America.

"It is perhaps reasonable to assume that we would not be Believers today had not our forefathers in faith also obeyed God rather than man," the UE statement declared.

Mr. Santa cited radio broadcasts into Communist countries as being equally illegal but noted an absence of criticism of that evangelistic medium.

He quoted Dr. Boris Dotsenko, Soviet nuclear scientist who defected to Canada in 1966 and who was interviewed by Christianity Today after his conversion to Christ in 1967. Dr. Dotsenko, in reply to a question about smuggling Bibles into Communist countries, declared, "Do everything that your conscience, your courage and your trust in God allows you to do. Shall we submit ourselves to this godless force, or shall we follow the commandment of our Lord, 'Feed my sheep'?"

EVANGELIST AT 'VOLUNTARY' ASSEMBLY WARNED NOT TO MENTION JESUS

SCOTTSDALE , Ariz. (EP)—Before addressing a "voluntary assembly" at the Saguaro High School here, evangelist Freddie Gage was told by a school official that he must not mention the name of "Jesus" during his talk.

The talk was basically about the evils of drugs.

Mr. Gage noted that since he had been invited to the campus he agreed with the request and urged the students to "live for God and to serve Him."

Officials at the school indicated that the reason for the ban on a mention of "Jesus" was "a concession to the (United States) Supreme Court's decision of separation of church and state."

The school official said there are a number of students at the high school, including Jews, who do not accept the teachings of Jesus Christ. The school can't "promote the concept of Jesus" during school assemblies, he said.

Dr. Norman D. White, assistant superintendent of the Scottsdale School District noted that religious speakers at school assemblies are requested to give non-sectarian messages.

Dr. White said that the name of "Jesus" is not forbidden during assemblies providing Jesus is named as a historical figure or that Jesus has "inspired" the assembly speaker.

CENTURY SAYS 'EXORCIST' VIOLATES PROTESTANT VIEW OF EVIL

CHICAGO (EP)—The Exorcist, the movie about demon possession, "violates" the Protestant view of evil, Christian Century said here.

"From the Protestant perspective, evil is a mystery that haunts our human condition; it is not an entity that occupies space," said an editorial in the Jan. 20 issue of the ecumenical weekly that has a Protestant heritage.

The Rev. James Wall, a United Methodist clergyman who edits the Century, believes "The Exorcist" exposes "an important difference in Protestant and Catholic approaches to good and evil."

In the controversial film, the Catholic ritual of exorcism is used in attempts to cure a 12-year-old girl's bizarre behavior.

Mr. Wall writes that while "The Exorcist" is a "distortion" of Catholic thought it is in essential agreement with a Catholic premise that evil can be "spatially located."

This, he says, is "unacceptable" to Protestants who hold that good and evil are "relational terms."

"The Catholic who thinks of good and evil in spatial terms may feel that 'The Exorcist' is excessive, but he cannot avoid the fact that his philosophical presuppositions do permit the location of the devil in person's," according to the Century's editorial.

NO 'CHRISTIAN AMERICA' ANY LONGER, MABRY SAYS

DALLAS (EP)—The term "Christian America" has a hollow ring to the ears of Don Mabry.

"Those who believe in and practice the Christian faith in America today are in the minority. The term 'Christian America' simply isn't true anymore," Mabry said.

Mabry is director of the department of survey and special studies for the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board, operating out of Atlanta, Ga.

America is largely peopled with those "whose lifestyle simply has no room for spiritual things. They are busy making money or doing the things they think are bringing them happiness. But they are among the most frustrated of people," he added.

"Man, some areas of our country are literally exporting young people to the metropolitan areas. These young people are migrating to the established urban areas in tremendous numbers," he said.

Mabry cited statistics which show 75 per cent of the people in America today live in metropolitan areas. By the year 2000, he said, that figure will leap to 95 per cent.

"People dream of the rural, pastoral lifestyle of the country, but at the same time want all of the amenities of the city," he said. As a consequence, he noted that a peculiarity of the rush to the city is that many city churches—inner city, near downtown, neighborhood and suburban—are in crisis. Many are closing their doors, he said.

'GOD IS MOVING,' BILLY GRAHAM SAYS OF EUROPE AT GEM CHICAGO BANQUET

WHEATON, Ill. (EP)—"Twenty-five years ago God renewed the Macedonian call through a man named Bob," Evangelist Billy Graham told some 1,500 guests at the 25th anniversary banquet of the Greater Europe Mission in Chicago. Dr. Graham added: "God is moving in Europe today."

The occasion honored Dr. Robert P. Evans, founder and European director of the mission.

In a news conference before the banquet, the questioning turned to Watergate. Evangelist Graham noted that there is "a crisis in leadership" in all branches of government and claimed that the need of the hour is integrity.

He said the first great cover-up of history occurred in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve attempted to cover their sin. The second great cover-up was on Calvary when Jesus Christ covered the sin of the world.

Greater Europe Mission operates seven Bible institutes and has ministries in 10 Western European countries.

SOLZHENITSYN CALLS ON USSR LEADERS TO DISMANTLE SYSTEM, CITING 'SUFFERING'

LONDON (EP)—In a newly-disclosed letter that is primarily nationalistic and religious in tone, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the exiled Russian writer, urged Soviet leaders to reject Marxist-Communism as "alien," dismantle the USSR, and work to develop Russia as a separate nation.

He advocated an authoritarian, non-democratic form of government, but one that would be based on the leaders' "genuine concern and love" for the Russian people.

Specifically, Mr. Solzhenitsyn called for abandonment of Marxism, that "dark, un-Russian whirlwind that descended on us from the West," adding that the Communist economic and political system has become a "millstone" around the neck of Russians.

Ironically, he recalled that Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin provided a precedent for disregarding that Communist ideology when during World War II he appealed to the patriotic and "even religious" feelings of the Russian people to ward off the Nazi aggressor.

In urging rejection of Communism, he also advocated rejection of Western democracy, which he said "is experiencing great decline." Instead, he suggested the continuation of an "authoritarian" form of government, but one based on "the love of man."

"Russia is authoritarian," he declared. "Let it remain so, and let us no longer try to change that. But the authoritarian system must be based on genuine concern and love on the part of the rulers . . . for all their people and all their neighboring peoples, too."

Scorning atheism, which he points to as the moving force behind Marxism, Mr. Solzhenitsyn also asserted that Western democracy is spiritually weak as well as politically corrupt.

ESQUIRE DEVOTES AN ENTIRE ISSUE TO 'VANISHING SPECIES'—CHILDREN

NEW YORK (EP)—Esquire magazine devoted its entire March issue to what it calls America's "vanishing species"—children—and asks the provocative question, "Do Americans suddenly hate kids?"

The issue begins with a list of statistics ("the 21 facts of life") taken from a variety of government and other sources, which purportedly "point to the conclusion that the American kid is being phased out."

Included in the list are such items as declining fertility rate, declining birth rate, increasing numbers of single men and women, increasing divorces, rising calls for contraceptive aid, increases in reports of child abuse and neglect, increases in voluntary sterilization (from 200,000 five years ago to 1.1 million in 1972).

Esquire says there is an "upsurge of young people choosing to forego the patter of little feet around the house. . . ."

Writer Garry Wills felt an underlying sense of pessimism and insecurity, and over-all feeling of helplessness beneath the sometimes carefree "front" of today's young couples.

"What it comes down to is this" he wrote, "our culture is, especially in its younger married sector, afraid of and for its children."

TOPICS BEFORE PRO ATHLETES —CHRIST AND THE BIBLE

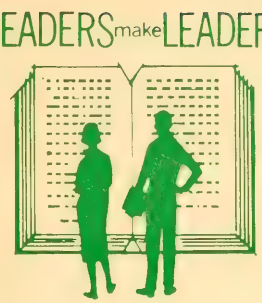
CHICAGO (EP)—It's no news that many professional athletes have "image problems." But this situation has a special aspect for Christian athletes, and many of them are trying to change it.

More than 100 pro football and baseball players at the Fourth Annual Pro-Athletes Conference here, sponsored by the Sports World Chaplaincy and Athletes in Action, a division of Campus Crusade for Christ, discussed the problem and planned strategies for overcoming it.

Tom Jackson, Athletes in Action's director of media relations, said that when speaking before groups most Christian athletes just give their testimony and sit down. "People think, 'the dumb jock.' This is something we want to get away from."

To develop leadership capabilities among the Christian athletes, this year's conference was dominated almost entirely by the pros taking part, with no "big name" speakers and no sessions run by the staff of the Chaplaincy and Athletes in Action.

"As soon as the highly motivated professional athlete discovers the reality of Jesus Christ, he realizes what he has been missing and wants to learn more about his new-found faith," Dr. Ira Eshleman, founder and president of Sports World Chaplaincy, told the approximately 100 professional athletes and many of their wives attending the 4th annual workshops at Hiatt House here. Eshleman turned over the reins of the Sports World Chaplaincy, which he organized seven years ago, to a steering committe of players headed by Norm Evans, offensive right tackle of the Miami Dolphins.



Victor Books Release Chosen in Top 25

"One of the 25 choice books of 1973" is how the prestigious journal **Christianity Today** describes **The Kink and I: a Psychiatrist's Guide to Untwisted Living,** published by Victor Books of Wheaton.

Coauthored by local pastor-editor Stanley C. Baldwin and Atlanta psychiatrist James D. Mallory, Jr., **The Kink and I** has already gone into its third printing, in less than eight months after its introduction, with a total of 68,000 copies now in print, or on order.

One of the strengths of the book is its easy-to-understand style. **Christianity Today** says, "Heavily sprinkled with personal, amusing anecdotes, the book engagingly and warmly communicates profound thinking about the nature of man, his needs, and how to meet those needs." It is strongly biblically based.

The Kink and I may seem funny. It's about a doctor who finds Cheerios stuck to the seat of his chair. It's about a little boy who can't find his socks, and a woman who can't find her husband (though he's somewhere behind his newspaper or out in the garage). It's about a ding-a-ling wife, a berserk computer, and Southern folk songs. But the book is much more than a spoof of human foibles. It offers insights that can make the difference between kinked, neurotic living and a healthly, growing personality.

Part 1 deals with "What are we doing to each other?" Typical blocks to communication and destructive attitudes are described in graphic detail.

Part 2 deals with "Who are we?" The true nature of man is clearly revealed. Man's many behavior and relational problems are understandable once we perceive man's real nature. This section also includes a provocative chapter entitled, "A Psychiatrist Looks at Christianity."

Part 3 deals with "What are our needs?" A person's basic emotional needs for love, purpose, and a sense of worth must be met in a constructive way or he may become neurotic.

Part 4 focuses on "How are our needs met?" The home comes in for special attention here, as do the needs for openness and honesty in personal relationships and the importance of listening to one another.

Part 5 answers "How can we untwist our lives?" Special attention is given to anger, one of the commonest, most misunderstood, and potentially destructive emotions. Learning to handle anger provides a model for handling other emotional problems as well.

The book concludes with a specific seven-step plan for emotional health. These are not abstract theories or hard-to-understand principles but a definite, practical regimen the reader can begin to implement immediately.

The book which is on sale at Christian bookstores as well as at some secular outlets such as OSCO Drugs, is being praised not only for personal reading but as a source for small group study. Victor has produced a leader's guide, which gives suggestions for adapting the book for study groups.

DAVID C. COOK FOUNDATION DEVOTIONAL GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE FOR OPEN SALES

Asteroids and Astronauts is the title of the information-packed new quarterly devotional guide published by the David C. Cook Foundation in Elgin, Illinois. "Probing Outer Space" is the subtitle of this book designed to intrigue children aged nine to 13 and encourage them to keep a daily quiet time.

With the publishing of this book, 11th in the series of 12 devotional guides on interest-catching topics, a new open subscription and sales program begins. Formerly the 176-page, heavily illustrated quiet time guides have been issued only to members of local IAH (I Am His) Clubs. Now anyone can purchase books in the series of nondenominational devotional guides.

The relevant quality of the devotionals that fill these pages have been acclaimed by Sunday School teachers, parents, group leaders, pastors, and directors of Christian Education. In addition, anyone collecting erudite building blocks in the subjects featured will value the devotional guides as source books.

Titles of the books to date are: CLIMB, CLIMB THE MOUNTAIN; THE AMERICAS: ARGENTINA TO ALASKA; ASIA: LAND OF KIMONOS, DHOTIS, AND CHADORS; SAVE THE GOOGOL AND ALL THE WATERS OF THE EARTH; AFRICA KITABU; NURSE LOGS AND WARTHOGS, THE LIFE OF THE FOREST AND JUNGLE; RUBLES, GUILDERS AND PESETAS, A 92-DAY EUROPEAN EXCURSION; DESERTS ALIVE; THE NESIANS, GOONEYS, JOEYS, AND CHAMORROS OF THE SOUTH SEAS; and ASTEROIDS AND ASTRONAUTS, PROBING OUTER SPACE. The 12th in the series, WE THE PEOPLE OF THE 50 UNITED STATES, will be ready for distribution in April. The books are dated by month and day, but not by year.

For orders write the David C. Cook Publishing Co., 850 N. Grove, Elgin, IL 60120.

CHEEP ADVICE



Opportunity looks so much like work to some people that they never recognize it.

The trouble with some folks who don't have much to say is that you have to listen so long to find that out.

Make the most out of life before you discover that most of it is gone.

Talent knows **what** to do, tact knows **how** to do it.

The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.—Wilhelm Stekel

They have a right to censure that have a heart to help.—William Penn

When you try to sell yourself, be sure the merchandise is not misrepresented. Hay fever has a parlimentary characteristic. Sometimes the eyes have it and sometimes the nose.

The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.—Charles F. Kettering

A husband who insists on always being as busy as a bee might suddenly discover some day that his honey is gone.

DON'T STREAK BY ME!

by Rev. Mike Hurd

First Brethren Church
Roanoke, Indiana

To the world famous Roanoke streaker I say this:

Don't streak by me son, or you might find a foot to trip on; with the present concerns of the world's condition, inflation, taxes and other sundry things attacking my sanity. I certainly don't need you. Already, my family comes under a daily bombardment of brutality, inhumanity, drugs and various assorted and distorted views of sexuality. Every day my children are being taught to misuse, distort and destroy the God given beauty with which all men are created.

No, don't streak by me; I want my kids to grow up to respect their bodies as God's wonderous gift; not to flaunt or prostitute them for a few misguided laughs. Again, I say, no! Their bodies are worth more than that—they are the treasure of God's marvelous universe, and as such are to be valued. What price can you pay for a sunset, the flight of a bird or the laugh of a baby?

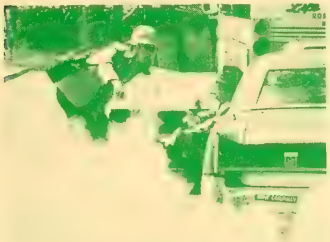
THEIR BODIES ARE WORTH MORE THAN THESE!

They tried to buy Jesus for thirty pieces of silver but got an empty tomb. Don't streak by me —it's illegal and immoral—I have a God given duty to protect my children from all harm; and I, for one, intend to do it.

(Written for newspaper in response to a local incident.)

Next time you see someone polluting, point it out.

Don't close your eyes.
Point it out to someone who
can do something about it.



People start pollution.
People can stop it.

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Be on the LOOKOUT



Event of the year "happens" August 16, 1974!

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The Brethren
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1974 MAY YOUTH OFFERING

(See Pages 13-19)

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS



MARCHES ON!

FIFTY YEARS AGO: The first church edifice owned by the Brethren Church on the corner of East Tuscarawas and Schwalm streets in Canton, Ohio and pastored by Rev. Fred Vanator developed a serious case of growing pains; plans were made to build a new church building with adequate facilities, especially for the fast growing Sunday School department.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: Rev. Milton Bowman reported from the Nappanee, Indiana Church that a record was broken for Sunday School attendance during his ministry there with 528 being the new record.

TEN YEARS AGO: Word had been received by the Missionary Board that the Curtis family arrived safely in Costa Rica to begin their study of the Spanish language in preparation for service on the Mission field in South America.

By the Way

DOES HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

Or do the same situations exist under different conditions to be recognized merely by the use of various pseudonyms?

Perhaps we should limit the thoughts in this editorial to the subject of progress. Has it stood still? Is it still proceeding at the same rate it did in 1900? Or is it advancing too fast?

We certainly agree that it has not stood still. We hope it hasn't advanced as the old timer who sat over in the corner of a room with a scrap of paper and a stub of a pencil and after a while smilingly said, "What do you known. I learned to write!" Maw got up and looked over his shoulder and said, "What do it say?" "I don't rightly know," said the oldtimer, "I haven't learned to read yet."

On the other hand, we also hope it hasn't advanced to the point where instead of thinking about history repeating itself we may find it reversing itself. At the start of this century, the average man lived within walking distance or at least a short ride on the streetcar or his buggy from his place of employment. There was no automobile parked in the garage to take him 5, 10, 50 or even 100 miles to work or perhaps to the drugstore around the corner. Transit systems were prospering. (History may have to repeat itself in this area of progress by the close of this century).

The numerical figures may certainly have increased but the percentages may be similar in that seven-tenths of the total working population in 1900 were directly involved in the production of food, clothing, shelter and other essentials for the maintainence of society.

The remaining three-tenths were either in clerical and financial positions or in the business of supplying some types of service of one sort or another. Modern technology may have altered these figures somewhat but our basic needs and means to provide them are still the same.

Of course, with progress there needs to be change, even such as the question once asked, "How's everything coming on the farm?" The answer came back, "Fine, The billboard is painted, the hot dog stand is built and the filling station is ready to pump gas." (The longevity of the gas station may be questioned now.)

Changes have been made in all branches of our society, in all of its modes. Some of them we may not be able to keep up with. This usually happens when society cannot accept changes due to progress. It is also the reason why problems for the future are said to be unseen until the crest is reached and in the valley is seen nothing but insurmountable trouble. (There are those who would like to succeed in calling wastefulness, shortages in energy sources, possible famine, destruction of property and lives by various means something that has a better sound than trouble.) They are like the fellow who was in trouble again and facing the judge. The judge asked if he was guilty or not guilty. The answer came, "Guilty, I think, but judge, you better have the trial anyway to make sure."

We call it an ever-changing world but with its sophisticated technology and the so-called progress that is supposed to be the result of our continual research and development has it changed?

A few of our readers may have some idea what the economic and social conditions were in 1900. Whether they have changed much if at all, this writer would not know. But he does remember Pastor William Anderson in his Moderator's Address of the 1964 General Conference stating that "over half of the world is poverty-strickened, disease ridden, illiterate, and plagued with corrupt governmental systems." This statement was made about ten years ago. Is history standing still? If not, what have we been doing or not been doing that these conditions are still with us? Are we setting up commissions, committees, agencies to look into these matters that are so involved in getting the mechanics organized in the programs that by the time they are ready to be implemented the remedy for the problem is obsolete and the whole program has to be restructured for the new problem that has reared its ugly head.

Perhaps C. F. Kettering wasn't kidding when he made the statement, "If you want to kill any idea in the world today, get a committee working on it." It might be well for us to keep in mind the words of Kettering as we ponder the words of Cumberland, "This world has cares enough to plague us; but he who meditates on other's woes shall, in that meditation, lose his own." (G.S.)

MISSIONARY NEWS

THE AGONY AND THE ECSTASY



Concerned as the Nigerian brethren are over staggering problems, the one recurrent sign of hope is the unfailing vitality of the Christian movement. The people-potential is great.

Here you are, stuck out in this remote village, with the promise of five dollars a month support. Last month you got sixty-three cents. This month it looks like there will be nothing at all. Yet you struggle on. Weren't you sent out here by the local church? Isn't it after all the Lord's work and, pay or no pay, you must keep on? Isn't this what they told you at Kulp Bible School, that you must largely support yourself with ox and plow? So that now if you don't get a penny, so what? Yes, but why did your church leader in town send you out to this unlikely village in the first place? Could it be that you, with three years of training, would be too much of a threat to him there?

BY CHALMER E. FAW

You are only one of literally hundreds of village workers serving where the pastures are parched and dry and the going is rough. The level of stewardship is so low that only a few places can support their leaders, and even then at a rate far below that of other wage earners. Yet the Lord's work goes on. Somehow the people-potential is so great, with hundreds still pressing for help, that money or no money, the work manages to move along. And so does time: years swallowing up months, as the Nigerian church of Lardin Gabas comes of age.

Missionary churchmen are becoming fewer and fewer. The agony of a changing season is upon the church. As Nigerians more and more take complete leadership and sponsorship there are misgivings. Many indigenous church workers find it all very threatening. Others see in it a real challenge and rejoice that Nigerians have been and are being trained for the responsibilities involved.

In this great savanna land it is only after the old grass dries and is burnt off at the end of the rains that the new grass begins to sprout and cattle find grazing even months before the new rains begin. Lardin Gabas finds itself in that period between the rains, a time of burning grass. Yet already the spears of hardy vegetation are pushing through and just inches beneath the surface are the myriads of roots insuring growth for many seasons to come.

The problem of stewardship is a serious one. Most Nigerian churchmen list it at the top of their present concerns. It not only means little or no financial assistance for the many dedicated workers but a serious lack of equipment and supplies of all sorts to carry on the work. Somehow Western-style stewardship education and methods of fund raising have not taken told here. It could be a case of "too little too late." Or perhaps it means the imposition of something alien to basic Nigerian culture. No doubt also stewardship has never seemed so crucial as it does now as overseas assistance is reduced. No one can predict what this portends for the future, except that in all likelihood for some time to come a great deal of leadership must be on a tent-making basis.

Seventy years ago the area Lardin Gabas was torn by tribal warfare, raiding parties, and feuds among the clans. The colonial government put an

end to most of the outward forms of oppression and hostility. Then, after the coming of the mission the many years of exposure to the gospel of Christ has helped soften the ragged edges of inter-tribal conflict.

Yet old rivalries and distrust die slowly. Even now "tribalism" stands high on the list of serious weaknesses as our Nigerian brethren speak out. On the local church scene it often manifests itself in cliques of families, clans, or tribes, pushing each other for church office and preferment. In the district it means rivalry for representation by sections and tribes. The struggle to locate a central church headquarters for the district is symptomatic of a general situation. Yet, distressing as this is at times, it is encouraging to note the expressions of real faith on the part of the churchmen that this problem, like many others, will be taken care of as time goes on.

One of the culturally most deeply rooted agonies is in regard to the Nigerian system of marriage. Traditionally in West Africa, plural marriages were not only sanctioned but constituted a way of life, with a complete value structure based upon them. The lowest men on the ladder of social acceptability were the bachelors. Next to them and only slightly higher were the husbands of one wife, a man's influence in the village being in direct ration to the number of wives and living children he has. The coming of the mission posed a direct challenge to this whole system and there have been hurts on both sides.

On the one hand there are many who have faithfully adopted the teaching of the church and, though sometimes discriminated against by their fellow tribesmen, both pagan and Muslim, have managed to weather the storms and have gained positions of honor and respect both inside and outside the church. They deplore as a sure sign of the deterioration of the church the fact that many of their fellows have slipped back into plural marriages and are deeply hurt at this unfaithfulness.

On the other hand countless adults have been turned away from the church door by the hard alternatives the church has handed them. Either they put away all wives but the first one, an impossible demand for all Nigerians and for more sensitive Christian consciences, or wait until all the wives die off but one and then become baptized members. Halfway measures such as building separate huts for the extra wives, or that of "special register" by which they become second-class members, without baptism or the right of communion, have not proved too satisfactory.

In fact many sensitive leaders, particularly among the younger men who have some training in Nigerian culture, are not only repudiating these partial measures but are advocating the baptism of older polygamists, keeping the monogamist line intact for younger men. Some, however, openly or inwardly, regard monogamy itself as an importation from the West and not so explicitly Christian as the missionaries have always preached. Many young leaders shrink from evangelistic work among pagans because of the dilemma it puts them in of inviting all to come, "New Life for All" as the evangelistic slogan has it, and then having to deny baptism to that section of the "all": involved in polygamy.

So deeply rooted is this total problem in the thinking of our churchmen that the issue erupts like a volcano from within most any discussion and, when it does, it obscures all other subjects with its heat and smoke. Yet, critical though the problem is fraught with the most explosive possibilities, the hopeful feature is the fact that all West Africans are struggling with this same question and surely out of the consecration of mind and will of millions of such sincere Christians, led by the Holy Spirit, some way through the impasse will be found.

Meanwhile the church continues to grow. A steady stream of people continues to come through the inquirers' classes into preparation for baptism and then on to full membership in the burgeoning church. Each year sees the organization of one or more new congregations. Troubled and concerned as our Nigerian brethren are over the staggering problems that face them in these days, the one recurrent sign of hope is the unfailing vitality of the Christian movement. The people-potential is great. New tribes or tribal areas keep opening up to the gospel, new villages are being reached, and there are daily evidences of God's work of grace in many individual lives. Across all Lardin Gabas there is a conviction that the church here has a real future in spite of the problems. Whatever the changing seasons, the work will go forward.

Undergirding this faith is a genuine personal commitment and high degree of Christian piety on the part of many Lardin Gabas church leaders, laymen, and ministers alike. One of the newer pastors tells of an experience as he struggled in his first parish. His was a town church in which each section seemed engaged in sharp rivalry with every other section. He worked and worked to bring about reconciliation and unity, but to no avail. Three years went by and still there was little evidence of improved relations. One day he went off into the hills by himself to meditate and pray. Uppermost in his mind was this divided church situation.

As he tried to pray a bee kept buzzing around his head and face in a most annoying fashion. His first impulse was to stop right there and dispose of that bee! Then another thought came to counter this one. If you let a mere bee distract you from prayer, what will be the next little thing that will turn you away from your central purpose? So he calmed down and tended to his praying. When he relaxed, the bee relaxed and soon flew away. He prayed on, determined that nothing should now divert him from his central concern, the reconciliation of the church. He returned to the town. In a surprisingly short time the discordant factions began to relax as well and to work together. Within a month he had a harmonious church and thus it continued from that time on.

Agony is getting all uptight about the work God has given us. Ecstacy is putting God first and discovering that his work goes forward beyond our wildest dreams.

Reprinted from the MESSENGER
February, 1973 edition
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the Brethren

AN ENCOUNTER

By Kenneth L. Solomon



Senor Gomez, an elderly retired gentleman, stood in his doorway in the residential suburb of "middle-class" homes, looking sad and lonely when missionary Ken Solomon walked by after having taken Joel and Margaret to school. The following conversation took place on that morning of the 13th of February at around 9:00 A.M.

"Muy buenos dias, Senor Gomez. How are you this morning?" inquired the missionary, who intended to continue on his way home after receiving the friendly response expected. But, something in the appearance or the response, (or was it the direct leading of the Holy Spirit?) caused Ken to change his mind and to take time to talk to this seemingly sad and lonely individual.

The elderly gentleman spoke up: "As far as health is concerned, I'm fine. But, I'm bothered by many doubts and I don't have anyone with whom to consult and who will educate me so that I don't die ignorant. For instance, those tracts you left me the other day, I read them but I couldn't look up the Scripture passages mentioned so as to get more out of the reading of them."

Missionary - "Do you have a Bible, sir?"

Elderly gentleman - "No, I really do not own one."

Missionary - "Well, it just so happens that I have a very colorful illustrated New Testament with me that I could sell you at cost price. See how lovely it is and you will not only find it interesting to read but will be educated by the many pictures of the places where Jesus and the apostles lived, walked, and taught. Besides that, you will find here the solution of many of your problems and doubts. There really isn't any reason for anyone to die ignorant of these great truths of God."

Gentleman's response - "But I live here with my family and have no income of my own and I wouldn't want to add to their expenses."

Missionary - "Don't you worry about that. In cases such as this, where we find people who sincerely would appreciate and value the Holy Bible but who cannot afford it, we give it to them free of charge. Really, the main reason we charge anything at all is that most people consider 'free' things of little value in this day and age, and we never want them to think of the Holy Bible in that way."

Senor Gomez - "Muchas gracias! Senor, but I still don't have anyone to help me understand it. And, besides, I'm so confused. They say the Pope is the head of the Roman Catholic church, but what is he for the Protestant and the adventist churches?

Missionary - "The Pope is the one who says that all catholics may now read the Holy Bible, and **should** read it. For that reason I am here in this suburb of around 10,000 people to make certain that each family has a Bible and to offer home Bible studies to help them understand it. I don't consider myself an expert but I have studied over 10 years to prepare myself to help in this area. I have also had around 25 years of experience, so if I can be of help please feel free to call upon me at any time. I live just two blocks from here. As to what relationship the Pope has to the churches other than Roman Catholic I can explain to you that he has no authority."

Senor Gomez - "Another thing that bothers me is, that if there is a God, why does He save some and condemn others?"

Missionary - "Don Luis, God is a God of love and desires that **all** men be saved. Hell wasn't made for man but for the Devil and his angels. Please hand me your New Testament and I will show you where in Romans 8:1 God says that there is **no** condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus. If all men would only accept by faith the Salvation God offers to all free of charge, no one would go to Hell and be under condemnation. God's judgment of condemnation is only upon sin and those who refuse to separate themselves from their sin by receiving Jesus as their only Saviour as St. John says in John 1:12."

Don Luis - "But that's my problem. I don't have faith. It's really very difficult to work up enough faith to believe."

Missionary - "That's right, it is. But the faith we need to believe the good news that Jesus died for us and saves us is also a **free** gift from God. All we have to do is reach out and accept what God offers us. We can never work up enough faith to believe. Just as a child has to reach out his

hands and receive the gift his father offers him on his birthday or at Christmas time, so you and I have only to accept what God in His great love desires to give us even though we don't deserve it."

Senor Gomez - "I certainly need someone to teach me so that I won't die ignorant. Do you have regular Bible studies and where?"

Missionary - "Not yet but we are going to begin some as soon as someone in this suburb opens their home to us so we can begin them. But, you don't have to wait for that. Just come up to my house anytime, even right now if you can, and we will continue this interesting study."

Senor Gomez - "No, I can't come now and must go but I **will** go to see you so that you can teach me. But you must be very busy."

Missionary - "Never too busy to help someone know more about the Word of God. Please do come anytime. That's what we are here for."

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



HIS JEWELS

Whenever I am free to spend time with little ones, I feel a little closer to heaven. Part of this Sunday morning at Brethren House I was able to be with Tammy (age 2) and Donna (age 3).

First, after hearing a Bible story, we went to the prayer garden where both girls touched many leaves and flowers. I let them each pick a blossom and we brought them inside to put on the table for worship. During worship the offering basket was moved in front of Tammy's flower and she said, "I can't see my flower." So we rearranged the table.

Then we went to the front of Brethren House where there were lots of stones. I instructed the girls to bring me a **big** stone, then a **Little** stone, and then an **in-between stone.** We lined them up on a low wall beside the garage. That was the beginning of a project. They began running to and from the rocks and the wall, bringing first one stone, then handfuls of them, stopping to pick up any they dropped. They ran back and forth until they had the wall heaped with stones. This was their "work." And they loved doing it. As Tammy leaned down to pick up the stones, she would say, "By the tree." Then later, "By the door."

Even though they ran to and from rock and wall, they enjoyed stopping to pet the cats periodically. So much learning occurs during these experiences. **What did they learn?**

weight of rocks
size of rocks
shapes of rocks
quantity of rocks needed to fill a space
the joy of completing a project
the feel of cats
the meaning of phrases like "by the tree," "by the door"
the joy of sharing experiences with others—"The kitty is soft."

Little ones need many experiences with their senses and with language in order to grow. Before they can understand Biblical concepts they need many happy experiences like our Rock project this morning. As teachers, we need to be patient so that they can grow.

They need freedom to move and explore. They need kindness, gentleness, and encouragement when they observe and experiment. They need to talk, be understood, exchange words with others. These are the building blocks for their growth.

Later in the morning when the whole group gathered for children's worship, Donna and Tammy were able to sit for a little and observe. They could see the others sitting quietly.

They could hear the songs being sung.
They could see the story acted out.
They **caught the spirit** of reverence

and learned to whisper their comments at that time. Because they had the freedom of movement and exploration earlier, they could sit quietly for a little.

Little children truly are HIS JEWELS—so trusting, so eager, so beautiful. True, they need polishing in order to be finished, but we must handle these precious jewels with the greatest of care.

—Jean

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOME AND WORLD MISSIONS — CORRECTION

In the March 23 issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST one church was inadvertently missed in the listing of Brethren Churches and their contributions to missions. We list herewith that church:

Roanoke, Indiana	Home Missions	$124	World Missions	$792

VICE PRESIDENT IS MOTHER OF TEN

Mother's Day could pose a real problem for Margaret (Mrs. Kenneth) Taylor of Wheaton, Ill. She might have to decide which of 10 corsages to wear to church.

But that would only happen if all three of her sons, and all seven of her daughters, remember her in the same way today.



However, as people will, each will probably look back on his childhood and remember her differently. Some will recall the cozy mornings in the kitchen when they climbed up on chairs to watch her knead bread, mix cookies, or bake brownies which they devoured, warm from the oven.

Others will remember that she always darned socks at Parent-Teacher Association meetings. Still others will recollect that, when deserved, she administered spankings on the spot.

They will all remember that there was some hardship, but lots of laughter, in a big family where the home revolved around the father, who in turn, revolved around his commitment to God.

The father, Ken Taylor, is the literary giant who deleted the "thees" and "thous" from the scriptures and paraphrased the Bible into today's vernacular. **The Living Bible** with already legendary acceptance has found its way into the homes and study habits of millions of people.

"He started **The Living Bible** because of the children," Margaret Taylor explained. "He began to paraphrase the Bible after we had family devotions and he learned that the children didn't understand what he had read to them. He did part of the paraphrasing on the train, commuting from Wheaton to Chicago where he was a director at Moody Press. During the last 7 of the 14 years it took to paraphrase the Bible he was at home all day. My job was to see that he had a peaceful place to work—with a large family that was not always an easy task."

When the work was completed but no publishers were interested, Mrs. Taylor went the second mile. She willingly agreed to use the family's entire, but very meager, life savings to speculate with printing costs.

Dr. Taylor was called out of the country just as the galley proofs came off the press. His wife was the one who did all the proofreading. Now, in a job that, like Topsy, just grew, she is a vice president of Tyndale House Publishers, the world's largest non-denominational religious publishing house.

"My job started because I had always kept the household accounts," she recalled. "Ken gave me the Tyndale House checkbook and asked me to keep up with it also. I very carefully described each check's purpose on the stub and that was what we took to the accountant at the end of the year.

"Then we grew from four employes to ten and I took over the payroll too. Reconciling the bank statements got, shall we say, interesting. I have help now but there was a time when I didn't dare miss a day of work because things would really pile up."

Since September, 1971, when **The Living Bible** was published in one complete volume, it has made literary history. Sales are approaching the 12 million mark—12,000 re-orders a day pour in from book sellers and **Publisher's Weekly** cited it as the 1972 non-fiction best seller. There is every indication **The Living Bible** will continue to lead the list when the 1973 totals are tallied.

Not everyone knows that Dr. Taylor accepts no royalties from the phenomenal sales of **The Living Bible.** He channels them, instead, into "Living Bibles International," a foundation that devotes its energies to making paraphrases of the Bible in languages other than English.

The fact that he's given away several million dollars does not disturb his wife.

"Ken's income is derived from his salary as president of Tyndale House and we are happy with it," she said. "He feels that the Bible is God's word to men. We need to live by God's word and how can we live by it without a copy of it? Ken wants to make it available to people everywhere, in their own language, and I'm in complete sympathy with what he's doing.

"We still live simply. Until we built this house six years ago I had never bought a new piece of furniture. We do not buy new cars, even yet. And we still don't own a television set."

She explained. "In the early days, piano lessons were more important. I read the television reviews and keep up with what's going on but we're not interested in having a set. I'm convinced that TV is a cause of a major communications breakdown between people in a family.

"We had no trouble entertaining ourselves. With 10 children in the house you never lacked something to do. Ours turned out to be avid readers and some of our married children still don't have television."

Even though nine of their ten children are away from home, married or in college, Mrs. Taylor does not worry about facing the "I'm not needed anymore" syndrome encountered by so many women in her situation.

"I'm fortunate in my work. I get caught up in the excitement of **The Living Bible** and what's going on at Tyndale House. I still don't think of myself as anything other than one of the employees."

The Taylors met in Freshman algebra class at Beaverton High School in Portland, Ore. They were friends through high school, regularly attending the same Saturday night Bible study group before beginning to date during their senior year.

"I was in love with Ken from the time I was 17, but we didn't marry until two years after I graduated from Oregon State University at Corvallis."

There were 10 children in 14 years and, while Dr. Taylor had a good position at Moody Press, money was often scarce.

"There were reasons," said Mrs. Taylor. "We elected to live in the suburbs where it was more expensive. There were commuting costs and 10 pairs of feet can wear out shoes quickly. There were dental bills and insurance policies. I learned 26 different ways to save money on just about everything. I sometimes put off, as long as possible, telling Ken another baby was expected because I knew he then had to start worrying about college for them."

She smiled. "When I had a baby in my arms, another by the hand, and was pregnant with still another, I could not understand why older women would come up to me and say, 'These are the happiest years of your life.' Later I realized what they meant. The children are with you, you are doing things together, and as they grow older, of course, that changes."

Although as the mother of 10 children she could be considered an expert, Mrs. Taylor does not offer advice on child rearing. "I would never speak to a group on how to be a good mother. Perhaps, on a person-to-person basis, I might have some comments but I do not consider myself an authority.

"I have found that in rearing children one's Christian example is more important than the dos and don'ts you might lay down. A child must learn by seeing you do, rather than by being told.

"By the same token, I've never given my children advice on a successful marriage. Our marriage, in its 33rd year, has been a good one, but what works for one couple may not work for another. I do think it is important to have similar backgrounds and Christian faith is a requisite, right at the top of the list."

Many marriages flounder in a financial morass, and while Mrs. Taylor was on speaking terms with money problems they didn't rock the Taylor union.

"A little more money a few years ago might have made some difference but probably not in the essential things that matter," she said thoughtfully. 'Eternal values are more important than material things.

"I don't think the hard places in life are punishment from the Lord they're schooling. I know He abundantly provides for our needs and I don't equate our upper middle-class way of life with being a Christian. It's only God's grace that we are who we are. We could have been born in some other country, but because we have privileges, it's all the more our responsibility to use them for God."

Being a wife and mother are priorities in her life and Mrs. Taylor estimates she's about 180 degrees away from the Woman's Lib philosophy.

"I guess I could be considered old-fashioned but, really, it's Biblical. If we say we are going to live by the guidelines the Bible sets down, then the wife must follow the husband.

"However," in a firm voice, "that does not mean the husband should be dictatorial. I never felt that in being a good wife I was taking a secondary role. There are many areas where I make the decisions.

"They include meal planning, shopping, and when we built this house I decorated it to our tastes, without professional help. We incorporated things we already had to a floor plan we purchased for a dollar from a national magazine. When the architect prepared the plan for the contractors, I made a few changes. We have been very happy how it turned out.

"For many years, Ken worked in Chicago leaving the house in the morning before the children got up. He didn't return until 6 that evening. Discipline was my responsibility.

"I wasn't opposed to spanking and there were never any "Wait until your father gets home" threats. I can't abide threatening children. And I never bribed them into good behavior with food. That's against my principles."

Prayer has always been a part of her life—in the busy child rearing years and in the exciting present. "My 'holy ground' is wherever I am. I pray in the car on my way to and from the office, over the kitchen sink, at stop lights. And my most frequent prayer is usually 'Lord, help me keep my mouth shut!' "

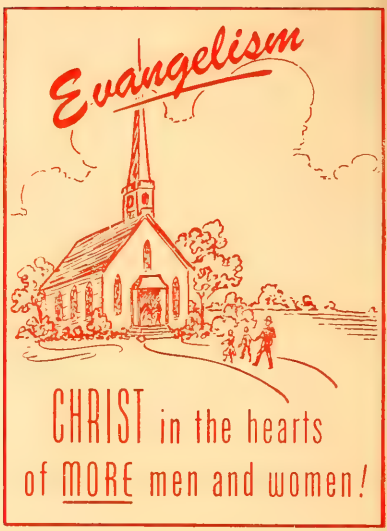
Mrs. Taylor wouldn't change any part of her life. "If there was anything I could do differently I'd still want to be a better wife. even after all these years. And I'd still want to be a better mother. But extensive travel? A second home? A mink coat? That's not my thing."

Her "thing" is her husband, her children, her grandchildren, and backing that husband in making **The Living Bible** available to more people, in their own language.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

You have an opportunity to participate in a **LAYMAN ALIVE** training program during the 1974 General Conference if you act **now!** LAYMEN **A**ll **L**aymen **I**nvolved in **V**igorous **E**vangelism is a program to equip laymen to more effectively share their faith and is under the direction of Rev. Arden Gilmer who has been specially trained for this ministry by Campus Crusade for their **LIFE** institutes and is sponsored by the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church. Rev. Gilmer serves the Pleasant View Brethren Church of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania where the **LAYMEN ALIVE** program is already making an impact.

YOU can attend General Conference and at the same time participate each afternoon in this training for only five dollars but, participation is limited to the first sixty to enroll—so—**ACT NOW** by completing the following application!



Mr., Mrs., Miss _____

Street or R.F.D. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Church _____ Age: 15-25 ___ 26-40 ___ over 40 ___

Enclosed is my check for $5.00 (made out to LAYMEN ALIVE) to cover registration and all materials for the Laymen Alive training at General Conference. August 13-17, 1974. I commit myself to participate in the entire traing from 1:30 to 4:30 P.M. on each of these five days as the Lord enables so that I might be better equipped to serve Him.

signed

This form and your check or money order should be mailed before July 26, 1974 to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

MY MOMMY

I like to be my Mommy's little girl.
She makes my pretty dresses and keeps
my hair in curl.
My Mommy's very pretty and I love her,
yes I do.

Now I know a secret, my Daddy loves
her, too.
Sometimes Mommy and Daddy and me
Go on a picnic just we three.

Daddy swings me away up high
Till I almost reach the sky.
Then down the sliding board—whee
That's the part that frightens me.

But I don't need to worry at all
For Mommy never lets me fall.
We feed the squirrels in the park
And don't get home till almost dark.

When I fall down and skin my knee
Mommy picks me up and kisses me.
And then she says, "Don't cry so dear,
Now let us wipe off every tear."

And Mommy knows just what to do
To make my knee as good as new.
And often when I'm sick in bed
Her hands are cool upon my head.

Then just so that I can rest
She rubs some Vicks upon my chest.
Her hands are as soft as soft can be,
So I like to have her care for me.

It's lots of fun when we go down
To do some shopping in the town.
We might buy for Mommy a pretty skirt
And for my Daddy a brand new shirt.

On our way home we always stop
For ice-cream or soda pop.
We have lots of fun on baking day.
Mommy never says, "Now run and play."

But she gives to me a little dough.
And I love to roll it out just so,
To make a little pie for me
To serve that afternoon at tea.

And at night when prayers are said
Mommy tucks me in my bed.
She kisses me and says, "Sleep tight
May God watch over you tonight."

Now you know—Oh! Yes sir-ee
Why my Mommy's little girl I like to be.

Florence Roby



A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Give me patience when litlle hands
Tug at me with ceaseless small demands,
Give me gentle words and smiling eyes,
And keep my lips from hasty, sharp replies.
Let me not in weariness, confusion or noise
Obscure my vision from life's fleeting joys
That when in years to come my house is still
Beautiful memories its rooms may fill.

Author unknown

NATIONAL CHURCH LEADERS IN BOSTON APRIL 23-25

WHEATON, Ill. (NAE)—More than a thousand Christian leaders from across the nation explored some of the church's major concerns in contemporary society during the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Boston April 23-25.

Marking the first time that NAE's annual convention has been held in New England, delegates met in devotional, workshop and business sessions at the Statler-Hilton Hotel. NAE represents some 30,000 churches from 60 denominations, independent bodies and numerous evangelical organizations.

The 1974 theme document, "Workers Together with God," was presented at the opening evening meeting Tuesday by Dr. Robert A. Cook, president of The King's College, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y., and chairman of the NAE Resolutions Committee. Speaking at that service was U.S. Congressman John Anderson, Republican, 16th District, State of Illinois, on the subject, "The Just God Judges the Nation."

Dr. Myron F. Boyd, bishop, Free Methodist Church, delivered the Presidential Address, "Evangelicans Are on the Map," at the Wednesday morning general session. The evening speaker that day was Dr. Warren Webster, director, Conservative Baptist Foreign Missions Society, Wheaton, Ill.

The Rev. John Huffman, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Penn., led the Bible Hour each afternoon.

Nine commission luncheons also featured special speakers on subjects of current concern. Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, president of Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Seminary, Wenham, Mass., addressed the noon luncheon of the American Association of Evangelical Students Wednesday on the topic, "Issues: A Christian Approach." Thursday, at the Evangelism and Home Missions Association luncheon, the Rev. Manuel Chavier minister of the Portuguese Church of the Nazarene in Fairhaven, Mass., depicted "The Church in the City Reaching the City."

Forty-two workshops and seminars were to explore a wide variety of subjects, such as "Pornography: Where Are We?"—a plan for community action described by Mr. Floyd Robertson at an Evangelical Social Action Commission session and "A Christian Woman's Liberation," discussed by Mrs. Elisabeth Elliot Leitch at an NAE Women's Fellowship session.

Special recognition was given to the "Layman of the Year" Wednesday evening. This award is given to a layman who has "maintained an unqualified Christian witness and rendered outstanding service to his church, community and world.

The NAE convention concluded with a Tribute Banquet in honor of Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, general director of NAE, who will retire at the end of the year after 30 years of service. Dr. Stephen Olford, minister-at-large, Encounter Ministries, Inc., New York, delivered the evening address, "Redeeming the Time."

The National Association of Evangelicals comprises a network of four national affiliates, eight commissions, and an Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. The national headquarters of the three and one-half million member organization is in Wheaton, Ill.



DISCOVERY IN THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Already the year 1974 has been one of discovery for many of us who are involved in Brethren Youth ministries. Discovery is important. Youth and leaders alike need to share in the teaching/learning process as both progress toward Christian maturity.

The pages that follow present a pictorial review of some of the events sponsored by The Board of Christian Education which were designed to involve Christians—both youth and adult—in actively learning how to serve more effectively. Some events are "fun" others are work but all are tied together by the desire to improve our youth ministry.

Throughout the year, in our camps, conferences, rallies, retreats, seminars, and special programs, we are challenged to guide young people into the stimulating experience of spiritual discovery. It should be understood by all that growth comes in many ways and in varying circumstances.

When we talk about "youth work" it is easy to overlook the church school. Indeed many are discounting the Sunday morning teaching program as being ineffectual. We do not agree. The teachers of young people must be sensitive to the needs and characteristics of youth and strive to direct the Christian message accordingly. Far from being a sterile, boring exercise, the Sunday church school class should be an exciting and invigorating experience. And it can be. A key to making church school a success is using the curriculum correctly.

All of our Gospel Light curriculum recognizes the need for student involvement in the teaching/learning process. Thus, every teacher's manual contains more ideas and suggested resources than can be used on any given Sunday morning. That's good.

Teachers who want to improve and who really care about their students have a tremendous opportunity for training through International Center for Learning (ICL) Seminars. This is a tremendous experience. Growing churches emphasize growing church schools and ICL can help every Brethren church grow!

So, while we would not reduce our emphasis on BYC groups, we do strongly suggest that if the youth department of the church school is strengthened by the appropriate training of personnel, we will see a marked change in our youth ministry. It is our view that the church school is the base upon which other youth programs are built.

During the youth years, our curriculum emphasizes: (1) **Knowing** God, the Father, **feeling** reverence for Him and a desire to trust His plan for one's life, and **responding** to Him in worship and loving obedience. (2) **Knowing** Jesus Christ, God's Son as Savior and Lord, **feeling** gratitude for His redemptive work of grace, and **responding** by continuing His unfinished work. (3) **Knowing** the Holy Spirit who convicts, teaches, guides, empowers, and fills believers, **feeling** dependence upon the Holy Spirit for wisdom and strength to obey, **responding** by walking in the Spirit trusting Him to direct one's life.

Certainly these are lofty and ambitious aims but they can be achieved . . . with hard work. Today is the day to begin moving toward this kind of discovery in the youth department.

DISCOVERY THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / YOUTH SEMINARS



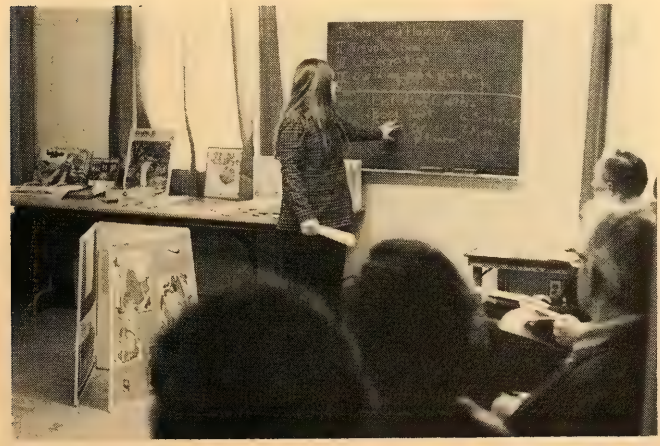
This seminar for persons concerned about ministering to families was led by Fred Burkey, DCE. Reaching family units is an important key to church growth.



Ken Van Duyne, Program Coordinator for Camp Bethany led a session on resources for youth leaders. The tools are available; the workers are learning how to use them.



Music has been called the "medium of youth." Christian music can open doors for people of all ages to hear the Word. Sherry Barnhart Van Duyne directed this music workshop.



Ruth Deardurff presented many ideas for the innovative use of available materials and equipment in church schools.

DISCOVERY THROUGH A VARIETY OF RESOURCES



A portable Brethren Bookstore was taken to each Christian Education/youth Seminar to make the best in resources readily available to teachers and youth workers.

The Board of Christian Education makes audio-visual resources available to all Brethren churches to supplement the teacher/leaders' efforts. Over 800 filmstrips and cassettes are contained in our rental library. Only recently the Audio-Visual Guide has been reprinted because of the growing demand for this information.

In addition our growing collection of Christian music has been organized, cataloged and made available to choir directors and church musicians. Listings of our holdings have been sent to pastors and ministers of education.

New resources are regularly listed in both **BCE News** and **Morning Star.** The **Morning Star** is our National BYC newspaper which is sent to every registered member of National BYC and to all known advisors.

DISCOVERY THROUGH FELLOWSHIP AND RECREATION



"Big Red" made her debut at the 1973 National BYC Convention —and attracted nationwide attention through UPI. Here a number of people are trying to avoid being trampled as the ball is moved toward the goal line.



NO these people haven't "gone bananas!" It's another game played at Lake Silverstone during last Convention. Recreation is a good and wholesome part of each Convention.



Another new recreational activity also came along in 1973. It's called an Isotonic Pull rope. Four groups pulling in four directions. Lots of work; not much progress. Man in the middle is National BYC Moderator, Ken Van Duyne.

DISCOVERY THROUGH GIVING

You can have a share in the National BYC ministry by giving generously to the May Youth Offering. There is real life in The Brethren Church. New leaders for a new generation are emerging. Your offerings may make the difference between a future laden with promise or barren of opportunity.

Give through your church if possible. Special gifts may be sent to:

Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

DISCOVERY THROUGH SERVICE

Since 1970, nearly eighty young people have served as Summer Crusaders. They have come from large and small churches; east and west; north and south but all shared the desire to serve the Brethren Church. This year is no exception. We are happy to announce that twenty-five youth have been selected for regular Crusader service and six will serve as church or institutional interns. The Crusaders and interns for 1974 are listed below along with their age (in parenthesis) and home church.

ASHLAND—SUMMER BIBLE MINISTRY

Beverly Blough—Smithville (Leader) (20)
Beth Gilmer—West Alexandria (18)
Joan Holsinger—Ashland (20)
Bonalee Radcliff—Dutchtown (17)

CAMP/EDUCATION

Pam North—New Lebanon (Leader) (18)
Gene McConahay—Smithville (20)
Jim Miller—Johnstown (18)
Robin Rentzel—Tucson (17)
Donna Shank—Gretna (17)

MUSICAL TEAMS—Two Units

Bruce Ronk—Ashland (Leader) (21)
Robert Grumbling—Johnstown (18)
Steve Barber—Chandon (19)
Ben Solomon—Derby (17)
Tracy Wilt—Washington (Leader) (19)
Mark Baker—N. Manchester (18)
Jeff Lentz—Nappanee(17)
Kerry Scott—Warsaw (18)
Martha Dearduff—Gretna (18)
Susan Michael—Gratis (18)
Joan McKinney—Tucson (19)
Debra Michael—Gratis (18)
Nancy Ronk—Ashland (17)
Sharon Stoffer—Canton (18)
Linda Metzger—Vinco (18)
Darlene Swenk—Vandergrift/Ashland (16)

INSTITUTIONAL INTERNS—

BRETHREN CARE
Joyce Cole—Vinco (22)
Mary Joan Weaver—Teegarden (20)

CHURCH STAFF INTERNS

J. Paul Deardurff—Gretna (22)
Kenneth D. Hunn—Mishawaka (19)
G. Wayne Grumbling—Waterloo (18)
Joan R. Hamel—Sarasota (22)

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



BOGGS - HERTHOGE

On March 30, 1974 Miss Carol Ann Boggs, and Mr. Cyril Herthoge were united in marriage in the Ardmore Brethren Church with Rev. Brian Moore officiating. Mrs. Herthoge is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Boggs. She is an active member of the church and has been active in B.Y.C. and Sisterhood.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Johns celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on April 13, 1974.
Brush Valley Brethren Church

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Falls City, Nebraska — 2 by baptism
Ardmore Church, S. Bend, Indiana — 15 by baptism
Sarasota, Florida — 8 by baptism

Memorials



EPPLEY

Mrs. Mary K. Eppley 90, of 104 Auditorium Blvd., Winona Lake, Indiana, passed away April 9, 1974 at her home. She was the widow of Brethren minister Rev. H. E. Eppley. She was a member of the Dutchtown Brethren Church. Survivors are one daughter, Mrs. Leonard Mauzy, one grandson, and three step-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted in the Titus Funeral Home, Warsaw, by Rev. Claude Stogsdill with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

* * *

WAYMIRE

Donald Waymire 51, left this earthly domain March 14, 1974 to be with the Lord. The memorial service was held March 14 in the Brethren Church of West Alexandria, Ohio where he had served his congregation as a faithful trustee and member. Survivors include wife, Sarah, four sons; Donald Jr., Richard, Tom and Tim, one daughter; Connie and two brothers. Interment was in the Sugar Grove Cemetery, West Alexandria, Orio.

WENDY SUE CRYTZER

Wendy Sue Crytzer, age 6, went to be with her Jesus on Sunday, February 17, 1974. Many of the readers of **the Brethren Evangelist** are familiar with the account of Wendy's miraculous healing from an initial brain tumor. This story was told by Rev. John T. Young in an article in the June 2, 1973 issue of **The Brethren Evangelist.** Through this miracle God had taught us that He can do anything, and that **He is able to heal.** We cannot doubt His ability to heal. But God also taught us that Wendy was a special child, and very precious not only to us, but also to Him. Another brain tumor developed and this time God healed by ushering Wendy into His presence where there is no more sickness or disease or death.

During the year from the time of her first surgery until her homecoming, Wendy was a vital, forthright, and loving witness for her Jesus. She was never hesitant about asking people, "Do you know Jesus?" She never hesitated to tell people about her love for Jesus. She eagerly communicated with Jesus through prayer, and I am convinced that Wendy saw Jesus while she was still in this life. To her Jesus was a **living** person. Wendy would say, "Do you know why I am so happy? Because Jesus is ALIVE!"

We praise God for Wendy's life and testimony, and the witness of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Crytzer. As a direct result of God's working in Wendy's life, and as a result of her witness and the witness of her family, we know of at least six people who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior. There is no greater memorial for Wendy's life than these redeemed human souls.

Wendy's memorial services were held at the Pleasant View Brethren Church, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania on February 20, 1974. The service was conducted by Pastor Arden E. Gilmer and Rev. Norman Long, pastor of the First Brethren Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During the service Rev. Long read the following poem—a poem given to him by the Holy Spirit as he rode in the car to the service. We share it with you as a meaningful statement of what Wendy's life meant to us all. We know that Wendy is very much ALIVE today with her Jesus who is ALIVE.

—Article submitted by
Arden E. Gilmer, pastor
Pleasant View Brethren Church
Vandergrift, Pennsylvania

"THE LITTLEST PREACHER!"

"Let the children come, forbid them not,"
Our Savior Lord has said.
He lifts them up, and tenderly
He puts His hand upon their head.
They are not ours; they cannot stay.
For just a time they're given.
They come from God, and back to Him
They go to Home in Heaven.
We praise dear God for His great Love
That gave His only Son.
The Lord is good, we bless His name
For sharing each "little one!"
One was special to us all.
Wendy was her name.
"Littlest Preacher" she was called.
From His own hand she came.
She shared with all the Savior's love.
They saw Him in her smile.
She witnessed and she sang of Him
Though weary all the while.
She knew that He would come again.
Her trust was so complete.
We now believe that she's with Him,
Sitting at His feet.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
"Praise the Lord!" would Wendy say.
Don't be sad this winter day.
"I'm here with Jesus, just by His hand,
You too can with me one day stand.
Just look at Him who gave His love,
That we might all be joined above!"

SISTERHOOD

by Mrs. Sherry (Barnhart) Van Duyne

Girls!

You now have a married lady as your Sisterhood General Secretary. Ken Van Duyne and I were married on March 9, 1974. We are very happy and excited about our new life together.

This month we have some business items to take care of so please let me have your attention for a few minutes.

First, Cathy Harding and I have been receiving letters and checks and money for both district and national dues. Let me try to help you in case you haven't sent yours in yet. The DISTRICT'S dues are 10¢ per member. These were to be sent to your DISTRICT treasurer by January 31, 1974.

Southeast District—?? (I don't know)
Pennsylvania District—Debbie Hill, R.D. 1, Box 12, Scenery Hill, PA 15360
Ohio—District—There is no district organization as of June, 1973
Indiana District—Sharon Zerbe, R.R. 1, Peru, IN 46970
Central District—??
Midwest District—Hazel Britton, R.R. 1, Box 732, Mulvane, KS 67110
Southeast District—??
N. California District—??

NATIONAL dues are $1.00 for Junior members and $1.50 for Senior girls. These were to be sent to Miss Cathy Harding, R.R. 2, Box 240B, Ashland, Ohio 44805 by January 31, 1974.

If you have not sent your district or national dues please send them immediately. Thank you.

Second, I would like to again remind you that the National Sisterhood offers one scholarship to a girl entering Ashland College in the fall of 1974. To apply for this scholarship just fill in and send this blank to me by May 31, 1974.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Brethren Church: _____

Pastor's Name and ADDRESS: _____

High School Counselor's Name and ADDRESS:

Send to: Mrs. Sherry Van Duyne, 36 Samaritan Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805

Send by May 31, 1974!



Third, (and last in case you are interested) we have sent copies of our new Constitution to all the societies that I know about. We sent these to the Patroness in most cases. If you did not receive one, please write to me and I will be glad to send you one. We are sorry that they took so long to be finished but I am sure that they will prove to be very worthwhile. Look through them! Use it as a program for your next meeting so that each girl really knows what her organization means. Also you will notice that this booklet is more than just the Constitution. It contains many hints and helps which some of you have been asking about. There are also more copies available at a minimal cost each (I'm not sure yet how much).

Well, Happy Springtime to each of you, I hope.

—Sherry

WERE YOU THERE WHEN THE CROWD CLEARED?



Where were you when the crowd cleared? This was a question many were asking following the conference held over the weekend of March 29-31, 1974 on the Ashland College campus. The conference was sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. "Building The Whole Man—The Total Athlete" was the theme for this event which hosted athletes, coaches and spectators from all over the state of Ohio.

The highlight of the conference occurred Friday evening when Christian musicians Phil Keaggy and Peter York set the mood with a super-concert for the main address by evangelist Tom Skinner. The evening's events were open to the public. Mr. Skinner, the spiritual coach (chaplain) for the Washington Redskins, challenged some 2,000 people with the vision of a viable alternative to a blind acceptance of secular humanism in American culture. He suggested that it would take the form of a model Christian community, built on a life-death commitment of every individual in the community for each other. The model would contain all the necessary elements of cultural development, i.e. education, law practice, industry, etc., except built strictly upon Christian/Biblical principles. Mr. Skinner suggested that America needs to see these Christian models prospering as an alternative life-style before American culture will forsake its cancerous economic deities. Mr. Skinner was quite radical in the vision he shared, but it was truly evident that the Lord shared a needed message through Tom with those present. This was evident by the response at the end of his message. More than thirty people, mostly college students, made a commitment to each other to begin such a model on campus.

Some other features of the conference were addresses by Neil Turner, coach of the Campus Crusade Athletes In Action wrestling team; Don Navorska, Ashland College student and former All-State Lacrosse player for Ohio State, and Dr. Joseph Kickasola, professor of Old Testament at Ashland Theological Seminary. Some outstanding seminars were also offered: Being A Christian Athlete On The Playing Field, Fundamentals of The Faith/Fundamentals of The Game, Man's Favorite Sport: "Christian Dating," The Coach At The "Home" Game: Parent-Athlete Relationships, and the Athlete In The Military. Many thanks to the coaches and athletes who shared in the success of these.

A big thanks is expressed to all supporting groups: Regional Fellowship of Christian Athletes, The Coalition For Christian Outreach, Ashland College and Seminary, Ashland city churches, etc. But a very special thanks to all those Ohio high schools, some 40 in number, who arranged student assemblies and allowed Ashland College athletes to share their testimonies and information concerning the conference. Several thousand high school students were reached with the message of Christ through this venture. Numerous FCA groups were started as a result of this outreach also.

The Christian community on the campus feels that the Lord was truly honored by this conference, which was one of the many outreach events of this special year. Another event this year which proved to be very successful, featured Mike Warnke, ex-Satanist high priest, who shared humor, emotion and the Word with well over 2,000 people the evening he spoke at the Convocation Center.

Also, many students were recently involved in planning, prayer and counseling with the evangelistic film, TIME TO RUN. They are sharing in the discipleship of some 300 persons who made some type of commitment in response to this film ministry.

Looking toward the near future, the community will be sponsoring and sharing in a number of Good Friday services, cooperating with faculty and administration in these events. One of these features will be a celebration-showing of the award-winning film, "Barabbas." These services will be open to the entire campus life.

It is self-evident that the Lord has really been using the growing Christian community on the campus to bear a witness in many ways to others around them, on campus, in the Ashland community and throughout the State.



CHURCH NEWS

FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

The Pittsburgh First Brethren Church held an experimental "LAYMEN ALIVE" Preaching-Teaching Mission March 31 through April 6. The theme came from our Brethren "Laymen ALIVE" program of Lay Evangelism through Campus Crusade for Christ, with the accompanying theme text being Ephesians 2:1, "And you He made alive . . !"

The week was reminiscent of the old "One . . . Two" punch! The first part of the week, Sunday through Wednesday, was the preaching part of the mission, with Rev. James Black, our Brethren evangelist and pastor from Milledgeville, Illinois who presented the "Want To" of evangelism. The second half of the week presented the "How To" of evangelism, as the teaching part of the mission was presented by Rev. Arden Gilmer, our Brethren pastor at nearby Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, who had been trained in the methods and tools of Lay Evangelism by Campus Crusade for Christ.

The average attendance Sunday through Friday was a very healthy 37, with Saturdays' attendance falling off because of work scehdules. At the opening service on Sunday morning practically the entire congregation came forward at the invitation for those who wanted to see revival in their own lives and the church. The Pittsburgh Brethren preceded the Preaching-Teaching Mission with a 24-hour Prayer Vigil, with each person phoning the next person on the list, completing a prayer chain throughout the entire 24 hours.

Among Bro. Black's challenging messages were these unusual titles: "Seven Ducks In Dirty Water!", "Hog Insurance!", and "Cool Samson and the Rat-Fink Philistines!" Bro. Gilmer's topics included: "How to Experience God's Love & Forgiveness", "How to Be Filled with the Spirit", "How to Walk in the Spirit", and "How to Witness in the Spirit."

Our prayer is that "Laymen ALIVE" will become a reality in Pittsburgh: "**A**ll **L**aymen **I**mplementing **V**igorous **E**vangelism!" Keep us in your prayers.

—Norman Long, Pastor

COLLEGE CORNER FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH



At our regular Sunday evening service we feature special music, devotions by the laity, favorite hymns and an informal Bible study. About once each month we attempt to present a special program of interest and devotion. In keeping with this plan for special programs we were fortunate to have Cho Young Nam, his wife Miss Youn Yuh-Jung and Ken Anderson (of Ken Anderson films) for the Sunday evening Service, March 17.

Cho Young Nam, or Young Joe, was the top male vocalist of South Korea. In fact he is known and revered by Koreans throughout the world. He accepted Christ when the Billy Graham Crusades were in Korea and was then featured in the crusades. His wife, Miss Youn, was the third ranking movie box office attraction of Korea. Prior to leaving his own country Young Joe appeared befor thousands of people in special concerts and hosted a prime time daily television program. Since coming to the United States he has made appearances with the Billy Graham team.

"I have come to this country to learn from American Christians," Young Joe says, "I want to be able to return to Korea and show our young people the realty of Christ. We have much skepticism toward religion among youth in Korea."

The College Corner church was filled to more than capacity for his appearance. We were thrilled with Young Joe's message in song and his personal testimony.

The College Corner Church is continuing to grow spiritually and physically and we praise God for this.

—Duane Dickson, pastor

A TREE "GROWS" IN WAYNE HEIGHTS



The Brethren at Wayne Heights believe, as poet Joyce Kilmer wrote, that "only God can make a tree." On the other hand, the Brethren at Wayne Heights believe that they can help to put leaves on the tree that God made—and the above picture shows that they have been able to do just that!

On January 13th of this year a large, bare branch was placed on the platform of the sanctuary of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church. At the evening service on that day all of those in attendance were given a copy of a suggested daily Bible reading guide which, if followed, would enable the reader to complete a book of the Old Testament each week. Thus began our "Book of the Week Club." Starting with the book of Genesis, the Brethren began a systematic reading of the Old Testament. On Sunday evenings the pastor's message would center around the main theme of the book which had been read that week: "Genesis—Beginnings"; "Exodus—Redemption"; "Leviticus—Worship"; Numbers—Service"; Deuteronomy—Faithfulness", etc.

One of the ladies of the church was appointed Bible reading secretary. Each Sunday the folks who had completed the reading of a book would give their report to the secretary. The secretary had prepared a number of brightly colored leaves from construction paper and pipe cleaners. Each week the names of those who had completed the reading of a book, and the name of the book, were written on these leaves, and then the leaves were hung on the Bible reading tree.

The above picture, taken just two months after the bare tree had been placed in the church, shows the tree with approximately three hundred leaves on it—the number of books which had been read up to that time. Those three hundred books represent something over seven thousand chapters! If the Lord tarries we hope to continue this Bible reading and Bible preaching program until the entire Old Testament has been read in the homes and preached in the church. We also take a few minutes during these evening services to try to answer any questions that the members might have about the book of the week—thus the program also helps to instruct as well as inspire. We feel that the congregation is being blessed, and the work of the church is being strengthened as folks take the time to systematically read and study God's Word.

LATHROP, CALIFORNIA

Brother Jim Black of Milledgeville, Illinois recently spoke in the Northern California District where he held evangelistic meetings February 25 to March 2. He spent the first three nights within the Lathrop Brethren Church and the succeeding three nights with the Manteca Brethren Church.

Then, Brother Jim and his wife Shirley were finally able to take a few days to relax and visit with his sister and brother-in-law.

Our Northern California District Conference opened March 7 to 10, and Brother Jim was our featured speaker. He spoke in the Stockton Brethren Church, where Conference was held this year. The final night of Conference many people went forward to express their seriousness in wanting to be soul-winning Christians for Our Lord Jesus.

We have had the problem in the past of our Conference being filled with business, but not as spiritual as we wanted or needed. This Conference was a dramatic improvement with the privilege of Brother Jim being able to continue to minister to us from the Word of God. The time spent with Evangelist Black is only a beginning investment by our District which the Lord will "return in full" with His Blessings and continued growth for us.

If any other Brethren have not yet invited this man to come to minister to them with his evangelistic program, you are urged to do so. Many blessings are still coming to us because of the messages of this precious brother in Christ.

Submitted by Violet Freeman,
Lathrop Brethren, Secretary

FALLS CITY, NEBRASKA

Dear friends in Christ:

On February 17, 1974, the W.M.S. of the Falls City First Brethren, hosted the annual Birthday Party—a bountiful covered dish dinner was served to a good attendance. A program was enjoyed later in the evening.

The quarterly business meeting was held on April 9th, and a vote was taken for a new Deacon and Deaconess; Mr. & Mrs. Gene Killingsworth were called to serve. Brother Gene and Sister Barbara were set aside for this holy office, just before our Spring Communion Service on April 11th. Forty-five persons partook of this communion, in a beautiful candlelight service.

A committee will meet April 21st, to make plans for a "Youth Fellowship."

May the Spirit of Eastertime be with all of you throughout the year.

—Ethyl Schroedl



LEMERT

Rev. Ora C. Lemert 85, Rt. 1, Walkerton, Indiana, passed away March 27, 1974. He served as a Brethren minister for more than 50 years and was a retired school teacher. He spent his winters in Florida the past 25 years, and along with Rev. Fred Vanator, was instrumental in the beginning of the Sarasota Brethren Church.

Surviving are three daughters, one son, one brother, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

It was an honor for this pastor to have the funeral message for this servant of the Lord. Rev. Jim Gilmer, Teegarden Brethren pastor, assisted. Services were held in the Teegarden church of which he was a member, with burial in Center-Polk Cemetery.

—Rev. Claude Stogsdill

WORLD RELIEF "Quick" REPORT

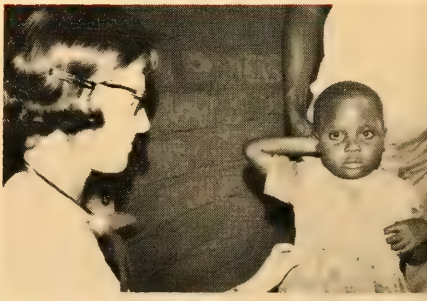
by Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee

ZAIRE
(Formerly Congo)

Homeless, hungry and sick refugees from the inter-tribal unrest in Burundi are cared for by the Free Methodist Mission in Bukavu.

Funds from the World Relief Commission (including the Brethren Church) help provide free medical care at two dispensaries; travel, tuition, board and room for refugee students; materials and construction for schoolrooms; Bibles and tracts.

Mrs. Barbara Stillman, RN, is in charge of the medical work.



Nurse Barbara Stillman with a little refugee from Burundi.





Dear Editor:

Greetings to you and all The Brethren in Ashland. This is a news item about a trip my wife, Pat, our three sons, and I will take to Europe.

On 22 April 1974 we will fly via Luftansa Airlines to Frankfurt, Germany, and return to Los Angeles on 20 May 1974. While in Europe, we will visit Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany (Berlin), Holland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Great Britain.

Most Important about this trip is that we will spend a few days at Schwarzenau, Germany, studying and talking to the local people about the origin of The Brethren Church in 1708. My three sons are excited about the trip. Steve is 18, Mark is 16 and Tim is 15.

I hope to see you at General Conference. God bless you.

My warmest regards in Christ,

THOMAS A. SCHULTZ
LT, CHC, USNR
Brethren Chaplain to
the U.S. Navy





Join the throngs at the event of the year!

World Religious News in Review

INFLATION FACTOR IMPEDING METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE

PHILADELPHIA (EP)—Inflation and the rising cost of printing supplies is causing an "economic nightmare" for the Nashville-based United Methodist Publishing House, the firm's president said here.

Dr. John E. Procter predicted "substantial" price increases for curriculum material and other printed goods.

He told the denomination's Board of Publication that while sales income over the past six months is up, net income is down. Inflation, he added, must take much, but not all, of the blame.

"We simply did not envision such a rapid rise in the cost of paper, ink and other production materials early enough . . . to pass the increased cost to our customers," Dr. Procter said, noting that paper rose 40 per cent in cost.

In addition to publishing all the educational and interpretative material for the 10.3 million member United Methodist Church, the Publishing House does some of the printing for the United Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Christ.

The materials of all three denominations are distributed from the Cokesbury Division of the Methodist Publishing House.

KIDNAP VICTIM PREACHES TO ABDUCTORS, CREDITS PRAYER IN HER RELEASE

LINO LAKES, Minn. (EP)—A banker's wife said the prayers of Christians throughout the world and her Christian upbringing sustained her dduring a harrowing 82-hour ordeal in the hands of abductors.

Mrs. Eunice Kronholm, 46, told newsmen in Bethel Seminary chapel at St. Paul that she was "terrified but uninjured," after being taken by two men wearing ski masks as she was wiping the frost off the windshield of her car March 15.

One suspect was captured quickly by the FBI; the other turned himself in.

"I asked for a radio on Sunday so I could 'go to church,' " Mrs. Kronholm said. "They drummed up some kind of radio and asked what program I wanted." She suggested 90 on the dial, the location of Christian radio station KTIS in Roseville. One of the abductors remained in the room and heard the Rev. William Malam at First Baptist Church and Evangelist Billy Graham.

"Shortly after that," Mrs. Kronholm recalled, "KTIS came on the air with an announcement of my abduction and asked everyone listening to pray for my safe return to my family. You can't imagine what that made me feel like. It really boosted me like I really can't explain to you."

The courageous lady was formerly a nurse at Bethel Theological Seminary. Seven years ago she married Mr. Gunnar Kronholm, president of Grover State Bank in South St. Paul who had been a widower. Her husband paid the $200,000 demanded, but the FBI recovered all but $100 of the ransom money.

Mrs. Kronholm, speaking to a packed seminary chapel during live ABC and NBC telecasts, said her abductors were puzzled by her ability to remain calm and not to become bitter.

"All I could say was that I was a Christian and that God had given me the strength to do this," she said. "I told them, 'You won't believe this, but it's Sunday today and there are going to be thousands of people praying for me.' I continually felt the presence of God . . . and the serse that kept coming to me was, 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee' " (a reference to Isaiah 26:3).

Mrs. Kronholm's testimony to the men (she called them "Bill" and "Jerry") seemed to lessen their will to hold her captive. After the FBI took the ransom money to the various locations she "just walked out" of the vacant house, hitch-hiked to a Tom Thumb superette store and phoned home to a grateful family.

CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION ISSUES 3 STUDY DOCUMENTS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (EP)—Strategies for world evangelization, the relationship of Bible prophecy to evangelism and criteria for establishing Christian unity are discussed in the first three study papers of the International Congress on World Evangelization.

Congress organizers have sent copies of the papers to the 2,700 persons expected to attend, giving them an opportunity to study the material in advance of the July 16-25 gathering. The other eight major papers will be released at three one-month intervals.

In "The Dimensions of World Evangelization," Dr. Donald A. McGavran, senior professor of missions at the Fuller Seminary School of World Mission in Pasadena, Calif., gives a broad overview of the evangelistic needs that still exist today.

He points out that "more than two-thirds of mankind has yet to hear of Jesus Christ," and uses (Fuller Seminary professor) C. Peter Wagner's term, "Fourth World," to describe these people. Dr. McGavran reports that "a small part of the Fourth World is in Switzerland, Europe,

and North America, where maybe 90 million have never really heard the words, 'Jesus Christ,' and consequently have never thought of accepting Him as Savior and Lord."

Another difficulty, Dr. McGavran points out, is that in many parts of the world, only some groups within society have become Christians, leaving others who have not yet been evangelized. "These 'pockets' of Christianity," he says, "have the same difficulty evangelizing outside their linguistic and ethnic boundaries as black Baptists would have in Lausanne evangelizing white Marxists. Outside their own ethnic units, the evangelizing power of churches is usually small."

The Fuller Seminary professor warns Congress participants to "beware of pessimistic generalizations to the effect that evangelism is passe, missionaries are not wanted, modern man demands bread not God, and a pluralistic world simply cannot conceive of one way to God and one revelation of His will. Some of these gloomy generalizations are the fruit of the Eurican (European-American) guilt complex. Some Europeans' good news consists in beating their breats and proclaiming their guilt!"

BASIC, ADVANCED CURRICULUM SERVES 150 WRITERS AT MOUNT HERMON CONFERENCE

MOUNT HERMON, Calif. (EP) — The fifth annual Christian Writers Conference at the Mount Hermon Conference Center drew 150 beginning and advanced writers from five states April 8-13 to the largest gathering in the history of the annual spring meeting.

Seven publishers' representatives joined a teaching faculty of four and a resource team of seven men and women, according to Gary Wall, Mount Hermon's Director of Information Services.

Teaching this year were James C. Hefley, free lance author and journalist (advanced non-fiction); Richard Bohrer, Professor of English and Journalism at Multnomah School of the Bible, Portland, Ore. (beginning non-fiction); Elva McAllaster, novelist and poet, Professor of English at Greenville College, Ill. (advanced fiction); and Norman B. Rohrer, executive secretary, Evangelical Press Association (beginning fiction).

Resource personnel included Margaret Anderson ("The Business of Being a Writer"); Russell Chandler ("Styles of Journalism"); Tom Frederick ("Photo Journalism"); David Earl McDaniel ("Poetry"); Alice Montin ("Writing from the Scriptures"); Lee Roddy ("Manuscript Preparation and PR Writing for the Church"); and Jeff House ("Drama in the Church").

Publishing houses represented this year at Mount Hermon were: Moody Press, Scripture Press, David C. Cook, Gospel Light Publications, Harvest Publications, Multnomah Press, and Tyndale House.

Mount Hermon, 70 miles south of San Francisco, started the popular writers retreat in 1970 to develop beginners and to provide inspiration, fellowship and broadening experiences for established writers.

THEOLOGIANS STRESS CULTURE IN EVANGELIZATION EFFORTS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (EP)—Four speakers at the International Congress on World Evangelization to be held here in July have cautioned evangelical Christians to take culture seriously and to communicate the Gospel in terms that are understandable in the cultures in which they work.

Howard A. Snyder, a Free Methodist from Sao Paulo, asserts in his Congress paper submitted for review that when the Bible speaks of "church" it does not mean denominations or other institutional structures. He claims that the church is an organism and not an organization bound by cultural patterns.

Susumu Uda, a professor at Japan Christian Theological Seminary, Tokyo, stated that the church is the church only so long as it proclaims the Biblical message. The Japanese Reformed Presbyterian warned that "there would be no foundation for Christian faith and action" without the divine revelation known as the Bible.

Francis A. Schaeffer, founder of the L'Abri Fellowship which has attracted intellectuals from around the world, describes Christianity as a "specific body of truth."

"We must be careful to emphasize content in our messages," Schaeffer advised. "How much content will depend upon the people with whom we are working."

George W. Peters, a Mennonite teaching missions at Dallas Theological Seminary, said it "may prove disadvantageous if not disastrous" to try to use the same evangelistic methods in all cultures. We do not need renewal of the Gospel," Peters writes, "but we do need continuous renewal of methodology to communicate the age-old Gospel in an intelligible, meaningful and purposeful manner."

This quartet of theologians supplied the second set of study documents required ahead of the July 16-25 meeting. They have been mailed in advance to the 2,700 participants in the congress.

'REPENT OF ANTI-ISRAEL POSITION,' GEORGE OTIS WARNS SELASSIE

VAN NUYS, Calif. (EP)—Publisher George Otis, in a letter to Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, has urged the Christian king to repent of his country's alignment with Israel's enemies and turn instead to bless the sons of Abraham.

"It is a law of God that those who bless the Jews will be blessed and those who curse the Jews will be cursed," Otis wrote.

He praised the king for his "open declaration for Jesus Christ," but chided him for giving in to popular pressures to encourage those who struck Israel during the October War.

If the Ethiopian monarch changes his stance, Otis believes the country's current difficulties will be ended.

"The Lord will then forgive and you will see the hand of God begin to move in behalf of your nation," the April 1 letter stated.

CHEEP ADVICE



Some people consider a certificate of membership in some church an entrance ticket into heaven. It isn't. The Lord examines the person and not the ticket.

Many live as though they fancied God an undertaker, whom they would need only after death.
from the Evangel

Happiness is crazy arithmetic. It multiplies when you divide it.
Pastor's Helper
Hagerstown, Maryland

Forbidden fruit is the ingredient for many a jam.

Instead of wondering about what light of which star he was born under, a man better be more concerned about the color of the traffic light before he crosses the street.

The hardest secret for a person to keep is the opinion of himself.

There was a time when instant recall referred to high intellect. Now it seems to be related to carelessness in manufacturing.

LAFF-A-LITTLE

Many a woman has gotten terribly excited about something, then wound up marrying him.

"Say, Bill, you ought to stop bragging about how your wife made a man out of you. You don't hear my wife going around saying that."
"Maybe she doesn't, but she has been heard saying that she done her best."

Even fun isn't fun anymore. It's like insurance, the older you get, the more it costs.

Doctor: "I can't find the cause for your illness. Frankly, I think it's due to drinking."
Patient: "That's too bad. Should I come back later when you're sober?"

Memory is what makes you wonder what you forgot to do.—(Smiles)

Two cars bumped at an intersection. One drove away undamaged. The other driver sadly contemplated his damage.
Witness (rushing up excitedly); You ought to have that fellow arrested! It was plainly his fault.
Driver (shaking his head): Thanks, old man, for your offer. But it couldn't possibly be his fault. His father is mayor, his uncle is chief of police and I'm engaged to his sister.

To stay young, stay with young people.
To die young, try to keep up with them.

THE LETTER "E"

"It has been said that the letter "e" is a most unfortunate character. It is always out of cash, forever in debt, never out of danger and in trouble all the time. But it can be considered in another way. "E" is never in war but ever in peace. Moreover, "e" is the center of honesty, and ease begins and ends with it.

Best of all, God's love, mercy and grace all contain "e". "E" is in that name which is above every name, Jesus, and is found in His Gospel and our redemption. Eternal life has it at its beginning and ending. Without it, heaven, though a haven, would not be heaven. So "e" is a fortunate character—after all."

E. Schuyler English

The David C. Cook Publishing Company will award $2,500 for the best original book manuscript for children between ages 7 and 13.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage writers to produce children's books which will reflect a Christian perspective on life. The manuscripts must be 23,000 to 30,000 and the deadline is November 1, 1974.

For more information write to:

Book Editor
David C. Cook Publishing Co.
850 N. Grove Ave.
Elgin, Illinois 60120

David C. Cook publishes non-denominational church school curriculum and paperback books.

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(housing and meals separate)

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B Y C Business Sessions
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The Brethren EVANGELIST



John 7:4

. , shew thyself to the world

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The Brethren
EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

BRETHREN PUBLICATIONS

IS IT TOO LATE?

Yes, it's time to think of Brethren Publications and their value to our lives. In a real sense, it's already too late if we are only starting now. The Publication Day Offering is a help, but it is not the whole answer. We need to be talking about the Evangelist and Outlook with others. We need to take them and read them to find out what is being said.

The Brethren Church was founded and supported by men who gave of their own possessions in order to share the ideas of men freely through the printed page. They were convinced that ideas are powerful and that everyone has the need to know what others are thinking.

I share that conviction. There is no way to build unity except on a free exchange of ideas and finding a common meeting ground. Can you imagine where the Church would be, if men had not written down the teachings of Jesus?

In Nigeria, I saw how vitally interested people were to learn skills in order to publish their ideas. The printed page became to them an open door for exploration of a whole new world of thought and experience.

Today there are extreme pressures being placed on religious publications in order to quiet their words of guidance and warning. This is not a time to take our publications for granted, rather now is the time to give them our whole-hearted support and grant them a fresh mandate to speak for us and to us. Let's thank God for His blessings to us by giving generously to strengthen our Brethren Publications.

Rev. Larry Bollinger
Smithville Cross Beam

By the Way

DROP A PEBBLE IN THE WATER



Drop a pebble in the water, just a splash,
and it is gone;
But there's half a hundred ripples circling on,
and on, and on.

Spreading, spreading from the center,
plowing on out to the sea,
But there's not a way of telling where the
end is going to be.

Drop an unkind word, or careless, in a moment
it is gone,
But there are half a hundred ripples circling
on, and on, and on.

They are spreading ever spreading from the
center as they go;
And there is no way to stop them, once
you've started them to flow.

Drop an unkind word, or careless, in a minute
you forget,
But there are little wavelets flowing,
and there are ripples circling yet;

And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave
of tears you've stirred.
And disturbed a life once happy, when you
dropped that unkind word.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness, just a flash,
and it is gone;
But there are half a hundred ripples circling
on, and on, and on.

Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each
splashing, dashing wave,
Til you'd not believe the volume of the one
kind word you gave.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness, in a minute
you forget,
But there's gladness still a swelling,
and there's joy circling yet.

And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose
sweet music can be heard
Over miles and miles of water, just by
dropping one kind word.

So, let's remember to "become useful and helpful and kind one to another," and only drop kind words that will give peace and joy to others.

Stockton Brethren Review

THE NINETY-FIRST CONFERENCE OF BRETHREN CHURCHES OF THE OHIO CONFERENCE



Camp Bethany, June 20-22, 1974

THEME: "Praise the Lord"

Text: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him all ye people." Psalm 117:1

Conference Organization

Moderator Bradley Weidenhamer
Moderator-elect Alvin Grumbling
Secretary Jean Shank
Assistant Secretary Joyce Brownsberger
Treasurer Thomas Stoffer
Assistant Treasurer Lois Byler
Statistician William Walk
Statutory Agent Elton Whitted

PROGRAM

Thursday — June 20

Theme for the day:
"Praise the Lord for His Creation"

1:00 Registration: Housing
5:30- 6:30 Fellowship Dinner
6:30 Registration: Delegates and Housing
7:30 In the beginning, God . . .
Invocation, Bradley Weidenhamer
Greeting, Ron Waters, Chairman, Host Committee
Praise the Lord with song
Praise the Lord with art
New Lebanon, Ohio
Message
Alvin Grumbling, Moderator-elect
Rejoice in the Lord
Benediction
9:30-10:15 A Bird's-eye view of the denomination
10:30 Campfire
I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep.

Friday Morning — June 21

Theme: "Praise the Lord for His saints"

6:30 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord
7:00- 7:45 Breakfast
8:15 Registration: Delegates and Housing
8:45- 9:15 A Time of Devotion
Praise the Lord with song
Praise the Lord with meditation
Williamstown, Ohio
9:15-10:00 Praise the Lord with song
Message,
Bradley Weidenhamer, Moderator
10:00-10:30 Mid-morning break
Conference Briefing Sessions
Registration: Delegates and Housing
10:30-12:00 Come now, and let us reason together
Prayer
Announcements
Report of the Credential Committee
Organization of the 1974 Conference
Reading of Recommendations of Executive Committee
Election of the Committee on Committees
Election of the Nominating Committee
Election of the Board members
Conference Treasurer's Report
Conference Statistician's Report
A Time of Sharing District Interests
Board of Christian Education
Board of Evangelists
Ministerial Examining Board
Board of Trustees
Report of above elections
12:00 Lunch

Friday Afternoon — June 21

1:00- 1:30 Registration: Delegates and Housing
1:30- 2:30 Woman's Missionary Society, Laymen-Ministerium
2:30- 4:00 Come now, let us reason together
Prayer
Announcements
Reading of the Minutes
Report of Credential Committee
Action on Recommendations of Executive Committee
Action on Executive Committee's Recommendations from the Moderator's address
Report of Special Committees
A Time of Sharing Missions
District Mission Board
4:00 Committee and Board meetings
5:30 Dinner

Friday Evening — June 21

Theme: "Praise the Lord for His Salvation"

7:30 I Will Praise Thee, O Lord,
Through Song
I Will Praise Thee, O Lord,
Through Meditation
Dayton, Ohio
Message,
Dr. Jerry Flora, Ashland Theological Seminary
Rejoice in the Lord
Benediction
9:30-10:15 Extra-dimensional Chats
10:30 Campfire
I laid me down and slept.

Saturday Morning — June 22

Theme: "Praise the Lord for Missions"

6:30 In the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee
7:00- 7:45 Breakfast
8:15 Registration: Delegates
8:45- 9:45 Woman's Missionary Society, Laymen, Ministerium
9:45-10:00 Mid-morning Break
10:00-10:30 A Time of Devotion
Praise the Lord with song
Praise the Lord with Meditation
Pleasant Hill, Ohio
10:30-12:00 Come now, and let us reason together
Prayer
Announcements
Reading of the Minutes
Report of the Credential Committee
Election of Officers
Election of Committee members
Selection of Delegates-at-Large to General Conference
Selection of Time and Place of 1975 Conference
Printing of Minutes and distribution
Unfinished Business
Report of above elections
Final Reading of Minutes
Adoption of the Minutes as the Official Record of this Conference Meeting
Installation of Officers
Adjournment
12:30 Missionary Luncheon

Brethren Youth

Resource leader—
Rev. Alvin Shifflett, Nappanee, Indiana

Thursday

1:00	Registration: Housing*
5:30- 6:30	Fellowship Dinner*
6:30	Registration: Delegates and Housing
7:30	Opening Session
9:00	Get Acquainted
10:30	Campfire*

Friday

7:00- 7:45	Breakfast*
8:15- 8:45	Registration
9:10-10:30	Second Session
10:30-12:00	Swimming and Recreation
12:00	Lunch*
1:00- 5:00	Canoe Trip and Box Supper
7:30	Third Session
10:30	Campfire*

Saturday

7:00- 7:45	Breakfast*
8:45- 9:45	Sisterhood
9:45-10:30	Last Session
12:30	Missionary Luncheon*

*Joint youth and adult functions; all others are separate.

Woman's Missionary Society

Theme: "Praise the Lord"'

Friday — 1:30

Greetings—Betty Deardurff, Ohio W.M.S. President
Report of the Credential Committee
Special Music—New Lebanon
Devotions—Gratis
Suggestions for 1974-75 Project
Sharing Experiences in Praising the Lord
W.M.S. Benediction

Saturday — 8:15

Report of Credential Committee
Special Music—Ashland
Devotions—Smithville
Project Ingathering
Business Meeting
Election of Officers
Plans for fall retreat and rally
Choose Project for 1974-75
W.M.S. Benediction

WOMEN'S LAB



THE STORY OF ESTHER

Like the heroine of the short narrative tucked into the Old Testament between Nehemiah and Job, we find another lovely lady living among the residents of Brethren Care. As her Biblical counterpoint, she is unassuming and gracious, reflecting such a spirit as only her Creator could bestow upon her.

Esther Abrams has lived her entire life in Ashland, one of six children—four sisters and one brother.

After attending public school and one year at Ashland College, she was employed in several stores, selling to a public which always found her courteous and accommodating. Places of employment included Poorman's Grocery, Sellers' Dry Goods, J. C. Penny's, and Gilbert's Furniture Company, where she remained for twenty-two years, until her retirement recently.

She recalls with pleasure her younger days when she attended a Sunday afternoon junior church group supervised by Dr. C. F. Yoder and Mrs. J. H. Lichty. She became a member of the Park Street Brethren Church in 1927, and has maintained her membership there ever since.

Esther, rather serious-minded herself, confesses to liking jovial people; however, she maintains she likes everyone in the whole world, and her conduct testifies to this attitude.

Her hobbies include reading, sewing, cultivating flowers, and **helping those in need.** Asked how she likes living at Brethren Care—and she gave up a lovely home to go there—she replied, "I couldn't be better contented anywhere."

Esther has a marvelous faith in her Lord. This frail little lady has had many illnesses, some quite prolonged, but her trust in Him never wavers.

All the residents of Brethren Care who know her visit her room frequently, share their interests with her, and reveal great admiration for her; in fact, they look upon her as somebody pretty special. Indeed she is, like Esther in the palace at Shushan, a bit of God's nobility.

THE RONK MEMORIAL PROJECT

Plans for the Ronk Memorial Project are taking definite shape. This Project is most appropriate at this time, not only because of the Memorial itself to these fine men of God—Drs. Albert, Willis, and George Ronk—but also because of the growing, urgent need of the Seminary. The Seminary building is absolutely filled to capacity—library, classrooms, general facilities—and unless additional space is provided, enrollment will necessarily be curtailed.



THE PRESENT SITUATION

The Seminary has grown from 20 to 130 students!

The present chapel is not large enough (96 capacity) to congregate "Seminary community."

The Seminary does not have any one room where faculty, students, and wives can get together.

The present three classrooms (renovated from old garages) are not large enough for growing classes.

The library will be filled by the end of the year.

Without additional space, enrollment will be curtailed.

THE PROPOSED ANSWER

The "Ronk Memorial Center" be built as a "multi-purpose" chapel.
- Worship space for 250.
- Several large classroom areas.
- Space for "get-together" for Seminary "community."

Convert present chapel space into:
- Brethren archives center.
- Space for Biblical archaeological collection.
- Space for thirty thousand library books.

THE PERSONAL SUPPORT

Your personal support is necessary because:

Church's faithful giving is designated for operating expense **only.**

Therefore, the Ronk Memorial Project will be fulfilled in special personal gifts.

Preparing men and women for **"Gospel Ministry, Evangelism,** and **Missions"** is the responsibility of committed Christians like yourself.

THE RONK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

$125,000 is the goal for building—$40,000 is now in reserve for project.

Board of Trustees approved project on a **cash basis only!**

The Goal is to begin construction in 1974.

A chapel building for the Seminary is certainly a priority for the Brethren Church. The Seminary chapel is most essential because it is used for worship services, communion and baptismal services, special lecture series, mission conferences, evangelistic services, Bible classes, and many other special services such as weddings. Student prayer groups also use the chapel throughout the week.

As a committed Christian, you can fulfill this project by a special gift: a gift of $5,000—a gift of $1,000—a gift of $500—a gift of $100. May the Spirit of the Lord guide us in these decisions.

Joseph R. Shultz, Vice-President
Ashland College Seminary



NEWS BRIEFS FROM NAE CONVENTION APRIL 23-25

EVANGELICALS, THE MAJOR FORCE IN PROTESTANTISM?

BOSTON, Mass. (NAE)—Evangelicals may be remiss in realizing their strength, according to Rev. Robert Dugan, Jr. pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo., and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Evangelicals. Speaking to the 125-member Board of Administration of the NAE at their annual convention Board Dinner here Monday night, Rev. Dugan said that evangelicals in America represent the mainstream between "unbiblical inclusiveness on the left and unbiblical exclusiveness on the right."

Dugan said that evangelicals must perceive themselves as the third (and major) force in Protestantism but must also recognize that there must be a fresh appraisal of the image of Christ lived out by millions of Americans if they are to be an effective force in this day. In asking if evangelical leaders bear the image of Christ, Dugan challenged the NAE leaders to examine themselves as to His commitment cordiality, consistency, compassion and courage.

"We must help each other, as a united body of believers, in sharpening our prophetic role of the image of Christ" said Dugan, indicating that evangelicals have something very priceless to share in an age when more people are open to that message of good news than ever before.

EDUCATING CHILDREN NOT RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE

BOSTON, Mass. (NAE)—Scripture indicates that it is not the responsibility of the State to educate children, according to Dr. Don Howard, president of Accelerated Christian Education, Garland, Texas. Speaking before Christian educators of the National Association of Christian Schools (NACS) at the NAE Convention, he said that biblically, "the responsibility of training is always the home and the church."

"Education is communication of life . . . from one life to another." He indicated that is this light, a trained Christian teacher is the best teacher. Stating optimism in the growth of the Christian school movement he told church leaders that, "Most churches that have begun Christian schools have doubled their enrollment in one year." The National Association of Christian Schools is the Christian school arm of the National Association of Evangelicals.

NAE CONVENTION SUPPORTS HATFIELD RESOLUTION

BOSTON, Mass.—Some seven hundred delegates and guests, representing the most outstanding evangelical leadership in the country, voted to support a resolution passed by the United States Senate calling our nation to set aside April 30th as a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. Meeting during the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals, the Convention resolved that the NAE "warmly endorses this action by the U.S. Senate, and urges our people to make this the beginning of repeated times when we observe a day of fasting and prayer." The Convention went on to recommend that the churches represented, some 36,000 set aside the last day of each month for the remainder of the year as a time to "pray earnestly for our nation, and to ask the Lord to give us the spiritual awakening that is sorely needed."

YOUNG DEAN OF WOMEN SPELLBINDS WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

BOSTON, Mass. (NAE)—A college dean of women with the appearance of a teenager enthralled 200 women here today at a noon luncheon of the Women's Fellowship, held in conjunction with the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals.

With a fresh, disarming manner, Miss Ann Kimbel, 28-year-old dean of women of Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, Mass., urged the audience to share enough love and concern to touch the lonely, bitter and hurting people of the world with the Friendship that is Jesus Christ.

Illustrating her talk with personal experiences, she described how "The Contemporary Woman-Biblical Style" can demonstrate the love of God in personal encounters.

"I'm an ordinary woman," she said, "But I believe that God and I can change the world." She pointed out that in "a big world of war and loneliness" there are hundreds of people who need to know that "God does live and love and care for one lonely person."

Miss Kimbel challenged the members of the Women's Fellowship to be the instruments of God working in their own community. "If Jesus could move the world with 12 ordinary men," she said, "He can move the world with you."

MISSION EXECUTIVES CHALLENGED BY NEW APPROACHES TO EVANGELISM

BOSTON, Mass. (NAE)—Challenging missions executives to a "greater achievement under God," Dr. Vergil Gerber, Executive Director of the Evangelical Missions Information Service (EMIS) addressed the Evangelism and Home Missions Association at the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals. Drawing on his experiences as a pastor, missionary and evangelist, Dr. Gerber noted with disappointment that many evangelistic efforts still result in a definite lack of church growth.

Through the use of a multi-media presentation, Dr. Gerber outlined to the fifty-five leaders the biblical basis for a "new approach to evangelism" and the various techniques needed to carry it out. He emphasized that this new approach should be "goal-centered" rather than "method-centered." Further, he suggested missions become more sensitive to new ways of evaluating their evangelistic effectiveness, and of encouraging permanence and growth in church members and churches at large.

GENERAL DIRECTOR OUTLINES CHALLENGE TO NAE CONVENTION

BOSTON, Mass.—"United action" is the strategic necessity called for by Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, General Director of the National Association of Evangelicals at their 32nd Annual Convention here in Boston. Addressing the Convention for the last time in his official capacity, Dr. Taylor who has been an NAE spokesman for the past thirty years, reviewed the activities of the organization and challenged the 750 evangelical leaders from across the country to cooperate in their efforts to "finish the Harvest" and tell every nation about Jesus Christ. Dr. Taylor outlined a fourfold method to accomplish this goal, first urging that the 10 million evangelical Christians within the various denominations join the NAE family. Next, Dr. Taylor called for a "strategy that fits in with the movement of God's Spirit as He builds the Church and finishes the work assigned to Him." The third challenge to evangelicals was to examine and evaluate the direction of their financial support and cease the proliferation of sham organizations. Lastly, he stressed the need for international cooperation among evangelical churches based on national units with its leadership coming from the grass roots.

Taylor urged the evangelical churchmen and executives to implement strategies which would channel the resources of youth, to use the Bicentennial celebrations in their cities to "remind the nation of its heritage in God's word," and to encourage lay ministries. Optimistic about the future of NAE, Dr. Taylor noted, "We are pressing forward to the whole movement of lay ministries and church growth. . . . This movement is worldwide and is being used by the Holy Spirit to produce fantastic results. The National Association of Evangelicals must stay in the vanguard of this movement if we are to keep pace with the work of the Holy Spirit."

RELIEF EXECUTIVE CHOSEN AS LAYMAN OF THE YEAR

BOSTON, Mass.—An energetic executive who for the past seven years has devoted himself to the distribution of world relief, was named as the 1974 Layman of the Year at the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals here Wednesday.

Dr. Everett S. Graffam, executive vice president of the World Relief Commission, Inc. was presented the award by NAE President Dr. Myron F. Boyd. Fitly described as, "a man who has given himself for others," Dr. Graffam has covered close to one million miles distributing several million pounds of food, clothing, medicine and equipment, with the 1973 total cash value amounting to $4,815,361.

Coming to the WRC from a broad and varied background in business, Dr. Graffam has held positions such as director of the G. D. Dahl Corp., Bristol, R. I., president of Buffalo Bible Institute, and executive director of the Evangelical Foundation of Philadelphia. He has shown distinguished leadership of the World Relief Commission. In connection with his WRC work he has been honored by the Ministry of Social Welfare of Vietnam and has received the Civil Merit Medal from the government of Korea. As well as his citations from foreign governments, he has addressed the State Legislature of Oklahoma and was guest speaker at the Rhode Island Governor's Prayer Breakfast. He has been a guest at the White House on four occasions and was appointed to the President's committee to work on the Peru disaster.

NATION DESERVES JUDGMENT OF GOD SAYS U.S. CONGRESSMAN

BOSTON, Mass.—The 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) opened here today with a stern reminder from Scripture that God calls all mankind to righteousness and justice. Third-ranking Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman John Anderson of Illinois told evangelical leaders that, "God judges us as individuals, as a church and as a nation." Anderson repeatedly stressed that transformed lives (in Jesus Christ) are the true basis for a transformed environment, socially and politically. "God's call has something to say about poverty, racism, nuclear holocaust, population explosion, hunger and campaign deception," he said, indicating that God's call to the individual Christian cannot be separated from His concern for national righteousness and justice. "Our strength does not rest in an ever-rising GNP or in might of arms," he said, "but is measured by the degree to which we are faithful to God's demand for virtue."

The NAE convention marks the first time in its 32 year history that the association, representing some 30,000 churches from 60 denominational affiliations, has convened in New England.

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR JUNE



NOISE! NOISE! NOISE!

Smog has often been emphasized as one of the chief pollutants and health hazards. Now, scientists are telling us that noise is also a pollutant and is affecting health.

We are told that noise can be distressful and disturbing to the equilibrium; and, also if the noise is great enough, vibrations can produce injury to the ear—perhaps permanent injury. The irritability and annoyance from noise can also bring on increase in blood pressure and essential hypertension.

Just as continued noise can disturb organs of the body, how often the rumblings of trouble disturb the calmness of the soul and bring disaster!

A doctor who is with the University of Califor nia Medical Center believes that there is every possibility that machinery can be designed whic will diminish much of the poise from airplanes trucks, compressors and even from household appliances. That is good news and we rejoice in it

How happy we are that a remedy has already been found which can still the distressing noise and anxieties of the soul. This remedy is found only in the Lord.

Just as the Lord Jesus calmed those waves o the Sea of Galilee with His words, "Peace, be still," so He can calm the tempests that rage in th soul. He loves you, He died for you; and longs t be trusted through every trying circumstance a well as for salvation! His Word to us is, "Be stil and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

The prophet Elijah had to learn that the Lor was not in the great wind, nor in the earthquake nor in the fire! It was "the still, small voice" from Heaven which instructed Elijah where to go and what he was to do!

Let us not allow the raucous noises of earth to rob us of the joy of hearing the "still, smal voice" of the Lord. Instead may that voice awaken in us His peace and His joy. Then, we shall be able to "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord" (Psalm 100:1), which will be most acceptable to Him!

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT



discovery 74

August 5-12, 1974

OHIO CAMP BETHANY

For Youth Completing Grade 10 Through Age 22

See the DISCOVERY 74 brochure you received in the mail, or write the Board of Christian Education for a copy.

INTRODUCING THE 1974 SUMMER CRUSADERS

PART I

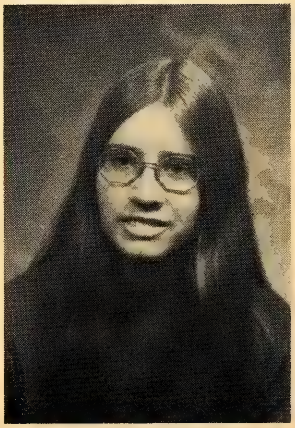
Team members for the fifth edition of the Summer Crusader Program have been selected and are preparing for a vibrant, exciting six-week ministry in Brethren churches, camps, and nursing care facilities. A four-pronged approach is planned, centering in the areas of camping, education, music, and on-the-job training through internships.

Following (and in the next issue of the **Evangelist**) you will meet these young adults who will be serving **you** in the weeks to come. Be in prayer for them now as they prepare and during the summer as they work to the glory of God and the outreach of the Brethren Church.

CAMPING/EDUCATIONAL UNIT

Five young people with camping and educational experience and interest will spend their summer assisting in VBS and camping in the Midwest and Ohio Districts. Again we are happy to have a team join the members of the First Brethren Church, Derby, Kansas, in a 10-day VBS outreach to the community. The unit will likewise help with a 5-day VBS in nearby Mulvane. Then it is on to a week of camping at Midwest Camp Wyandotte and two weeks at Ohio Camp Bethany.

Pam North of the New Lebanon, Ohio, Brethren Church will be leader of the team. Pam is completing her freshman year at Michigan State University where she is studying youth leadership and recreation. She also served in the 1973 Summer Crusader Program.



Pamela North, Leader
New Lebanon

CAMPING/EDUCATIONAL UNIT

Serving Midwest and Ohio Districts



Gene McConahay
Smithville



James Miller
Johnstown II

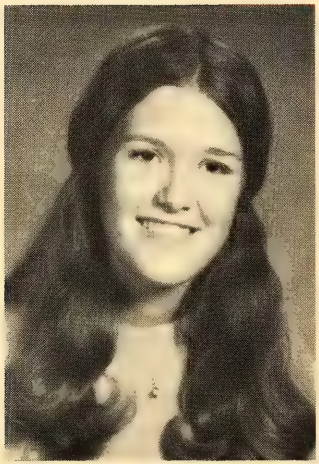
Gene McConahay served in the 1972 program and hails from Smithville, Ohio. Gene is in his sophomore year at the Wayne General/Orrville branch of Akron University, with a vocational interest in medicine.

Jim Miller, a second year Crusader, hails from Second Brethren Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Jim will enter Geneva College in the fall to study for the ministry.

Coming all the way from Tucson, Arizona, for her first summer as a Crusader, **Robin Rentzel** graduates from high school this spring and plans to enter college in the fall in the area of physical therapy. (Photo on next page)

Donna Shank, formerly from Maurertown, Virginia, and presently a member of the Gretna Brethren Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio, plans to begin a program in nursing at Shenandoah College in the fall. Donna was a Crusader last year. (Photo on next page)

CAMPING/EDUCATIONAL UNIT



Robin Rentzel
Tucson



Donna Shank
Gretna

SUMMER BIBLE MINISTRY UNIT

A team of four women will be working with the First Brethren Church (Park Street) in Ashland, Ohio, in developing and operating a six-week Bible-teaching/evangelistic Summer Bible Ministry (SBM). Incorporated in the program concept is a plan to reach unchurched families through special age-graded teaching program at the church and at one or more neighborhood Bible studies. The SMB will also serve as a springboard for an ongoing after-school program at the church during the school year for young children. The primary concern of the SBM is to faithfully and accurately provide scriptural instruction to children in such a way that the unsaved may come to know the Saviour and that those who are Christian may be more fully equipped to serve.

Beverly Blough, leader of the SBM Unit, was a part of the Crestwood Crew last summer and served capably in the learning center program in the mission church at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Bev is completing her junior year at Ashland College studying elementary education. She is from Smithville, Ohio.

Beth Gilmer of West Alexandria has just completed a course of study at Sawyer College of Business in Dayton and will also be working with the SBM Unit this summer. Beth served on the Mission-Action II Unit last summer, helping with Bible schools and camps in the Central, Midwest, and Indiana districts.

No stranger to the Park Street church and a resident of Ashland, **Joan Holsinger** also adds to the SBM Unit experience from the 1973 learning center program at Ft. Wayne. Joan is completing her sophomore year at Ashland College with a religion major and psychology minor.

Bonnie Radcliff is a first year Crusader from Syracuse, Indiana, and the Dutchtown church. Bonnie has been involved in church programs all her life and has worked in VBS and camp. She graduates from Wawasee High School this spring.

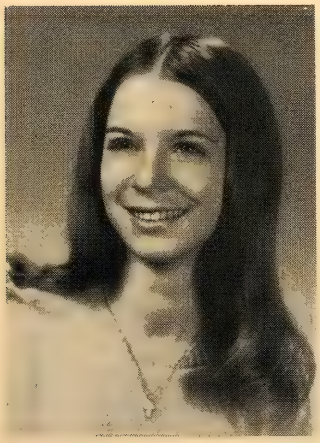
Serving Ashland, Ohio



Beverly Blough, Leader
Smithville



Joan Holsinger
Ashland (Park Street)



Beth Gilmer
West Alexandria



Bonalee Radcliff
Dutchtown

CHURCH STAFF AN



Joan Hamel
Sarasota

Six young people will benefit from on-the-job training during the summer as institutional and church staff interns. Though not technically Crusaders (their scholarships are raised apart from the Summer Crusader Fund), the interns will serve under the administration and comply with the high standards of the Summer Crusader Program.

Through this new phase of summer outreach, the interns will gain insights into various ministerial situations, learning from the valuable experience of pastors and administrators.

Joan Hamel, a senior graduating in May from Ashland College with a B.A. in Psychology and Religion, will be working with the Bryan, Ohio, Brethren Church. Joan is from Sarasota, Florida, and has been active on campus in dormitory Bible studies and Christian fellowship activities.

Joyce Cole and **Joan Weaver** will serve with Brethren Care in Ashland, Ohio, and they will assist in the Summer Bible Ministry at the Park Street church. **Joyce** graduates in June from the Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing. She is a member of the Vinco, Pennsylvania, Brethren Church. Joan, a member of the Teegarden, Indiana, church, has graduated from high school and is working at present.

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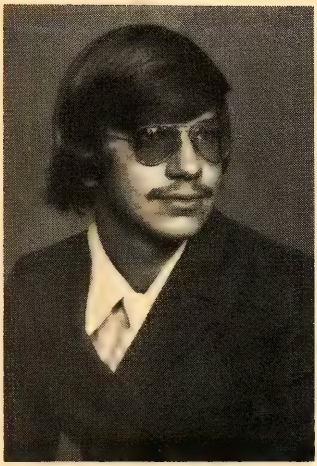
Joyce Cole
Vinco



Mary Joan Weaver
Teegarden

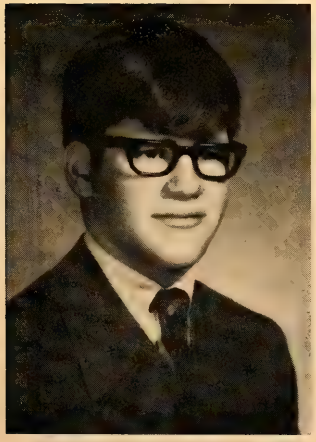
TITUTIONAL INTERNS

Wayne Grumbling will finish his freshman year at Taylor University in the spring and then join Pastor Arden Gilmer for service at the Vandergrift, Pennsylvania, Pleasant View Brethren Church. Wayne is interested in pursuing a pastorial ministry. He was team captain for Mission Action Team I last summer and is from Waterloo, Iowa.



Wayne Grumbling
Waterloo

The young mission church at Bradenton, Florida, will have the assistance of **Paul Deardurff** and **Ken Hunn. Paul** is a third-year man, previously functioning as a Crusader in 1971 and 1972. He will graduate from Ashland College in May with a B.A. degree. **Ken** was a member of "THE TWELVE," the 1973 musical unit, and is a freshman Bible major at Bethel College. Gretna is Paul's home church; Ken is from Mishawaka.



J. Paul Deardurff
Gretna



Kenneth Hunn
Mishawaka

SPECIAL PRAYER CONCERN

The Summer Crusader Program is no "fun-and-games" operation. It is real kids facing real problems in a real work with the direction and help of **a real God.** It is a spiritual crusade for the cause of Jesus Christ.

God has set a great work before our Crusaders, and we know His will will be accomplished as His people lift it up before the Lord. It is our request that again, as last year, concerned youth and adults join us in a dynamic prayer effort so that each Crusader and each Intern will be the subject of specific prayers by God's people for guidance every day of his or her service. If you personally want to join us in this prayer crusade—June 15 - August 18—please fill in the accompanying form. If you know of other "prayer warriors" who would like to sign up, please add their names and addresses. When we know of your interest, we will assign one Crusader to you and send you his name and something about him, his schedule, and other pertinent information so you can pray knowledgeably.

Thanks for your prayerful interest.

Clip this form today and mail it to:

Crusader Prayer Campaign
Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

Dear BCE Staff,

I would personally like to join the Summer Crusader Prayer Campaign and pledge to pray daily for the Crusader assigned to me.

MY NAME: _____

MY ADDRESS: _____

MY CHURCH: _____

Others who would be interested are listed below.

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

ASHLAND, Ohio, April 18—The Ohio Northern University drug information team, which has spoken before more than 7,000 people in the past four years, appeared at 7 p.m. April 22 at Ashland College in Clayton Hall's Main Lounge.

The program, of particular interest to teenagers, was free and open to the public.

Comprised of about 25 students from the Raabe College of Pharmacy, the drug abuse team has spoken to age groups from elementary students to adults. Most of the programs in the past have been to junior high and senior high school students.

"We try to give facts, not opinions or moralizations, concerning the use of drugs," said Susan Bucan, chairman of the team. "This program is relevant to today's drug problems."

The teams present half-day or all-day programs consisting of slide presentations or demonstrations with rats.

In the rat demonstration the subjects are injected with four different drugs—amphetamine, barbiturate, a major tranquilizer and strychnine. The body effects are studied and described for the audience.

The slide presentation includes a history of drug abuse and the current drugs in use—"uppers" and "downers," hallucinogens and narcotics.

"We as health professionals feel that it is also to our benefit to increase public awareness concerning abuse of drugs," Miss Bucan said.

Participants in the program were fourth- and fifth-year pharmacy students.

ASHLAND, Ohio, April 19—Seven Ashland College professors have been selected Outstanding Educators of America for 1974 on the basis of their professional and civic achievements.

Named to the honor were Dr. Gene Telego, associate professor of education and supervisor of student teaching; Dr. Martha Radabaugh, associate professor of education; Dr. Marion Blue, associate professor of education; Dr. Bernard Henniger, associate professor of earth science; Dr. Richard D. Kriens, professor of chemistry; Dr. David P. Loyd, director of the division of business administration and economics and Dr. Thomas Shockney, assistant to the vice president for academic affairs.

Outstanding Educators of America is an annual awards program honoring distinguished men and women for their exceptional service, achievements, and leadership in the field of education. They are listed in the national awards volume published annually.

Nominations for the program are made by the officials of colleges and universities. Their selection guidelines include an educator's talents in the classroom, contributions to research, administrative abilities, civic service and professional recognition.

All Conference Banquet . . . August 16th . . . event of the year!

SIGNAL LIGHTS' STORIES FOR JUNE

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

THE SON OF THE CHIEF

Abraham was a great man. He was the leader of his people, the chief. He was rich, too. He had many flocks of sheep and herds of cattle, and many servants to care for them. In those days a chief would live with his people in one place until the sheep and cattle had eaten all the grass in the fields nearby, and then they would move on to another place. Because of that the people lived in tents that were easy to take down and move.

Although Abraham was very wealthy, there was one thing he wanted more than any other. He and his wife Sarah wanted a baby—a son. God had told them that some day they would have a son. And so they waited and waited and waited.

At last, one happy day, their son was born. He was pink and wrinkled, and he spent most of his time sleeping, just as all babies do.

"He is beautiful," said Sarah.

"His name shall be Isaac," said Abraham. "We must teach him to be wise and good. We must teach him to love God and do what is right. Someday he will be the leader of our people."

Sarah and Abraham bowed their heads. "Thank You, God," they prayed. "Thank You for our son, Issac."

The days passed and Isaac grew bigger. When Sarah carried him outside the tent, the children came running to see the baby. Little Isaac held out his hand and smiled. When his father lifted him high in his strong arms, baby Isaac laughed out loud.

Then came the day when Isaac took his first steps. Soon he was learning to say words and to put words together into short sentences.

Before long Isaac had grown so big that he didn't want to stay by his mother's side all day. As soon as he was up and dressed he wanted to be out playing with the other children.

One day Sarah and Abraham watched Isaac playing with the other children. "See how big he is getting,' said Sarah. "He is no longer a baby."

Abraham nodded. "Yes, his baby days are over. Let's have a party to show everyone how big our son is now."

So Abraham and Sarah planned a party for Isaac. Everyone was invited.

As the people came they bowed before Abraham their chief and Isaac his son. There was music and singing. There was a table filled with good things to eat. It was a happy, happy time.

Isaac continued to grow. Before long he was big enough to go with his father each day. He saw how wisely Abraham ruled the people. He listened as Abraham taught them to love God and do what was right.

Isaac watched and listened and learned. He was the son of the chief. Someday he would be the leader of the people. He wanted to grow up to be a good leader—as good a leader as his father Abraham.

—Based on Genesis 21:1-8

Memory Scripture: II Timothy 3:16a

NEEDED: A CHURCH



It was Sunday morning. People were coming to the Jones for the morning services.

"Hello, Jack," said Jose.

"Hello," answered Jack. "I'm counting the people. You make 29."

"Dad was talking yesterday about trying to find a building to use for a church," said Jack. "It will be difficult to find one. Many people won't rent to evangelicos—especially for a church."

"Look," said Jose. "Here comes Antonio Maro and his family."

"Great!" replied Jack. "This is the third week they've come to the services."

Rev. Jones began playing the guitar and the people quieted down for the opening of Sunday School.

At the close of the church service when Rev. Jones asked who would like to accept Jesus as Savior, Jack gasped in happy surprise. Antonio, Juan and their parents stood up. Only a month ago Juan and his father were at their door shouting angerly. And a short time before that Antonio had been calling him names.

The people sang the closing hymn and Rev. Jones gave the benediction.

The Maro family waited until everyone else left. Then Mr. Maro said, "Rev. Jones, you do not have enough room to invite more people to the services."

Rev. Jones shook his head. "I know. I'm looking for another building to use. So far I haven't been able to find one."

"I own the store building next to my home," said Mr. Maro. "It is empty now. Do you think it would be suitable for a church?"

"It would be just what we need," said Rev. Jones. "What is the rent for it?"

"More than you can pay," said Mr. Maro.

Jack noticed a twinkle in his eyes.

"I want you to use it rent free for one year," continued Mr. Maro.

"That is very generous of you," said Rev. Jones.

"No," replied Mr. Maro. "I have been unkind to you and I frightened your family badly when you were gone. I want you to know I'm truly sorry. The building is yours for one year. Come tomorrow morning at 10:00. We will see what remodeling needs to be done to change a store into a church. Good-by."

Jack and his parents watched the Maro family leave.

"I never would have believed the night Mr. Maro and Juan were shouting at our door that he would be giving us a church," said Mom.

"God does take care of us and gives us what we need," said Jack.

"Amen!" added Rev. Jones.

The Brethren LAYMAN

PRESIDENT PAYNE GOES TO TUCSON



The Lord surely blessed on the visit west to our California and Arizona churches and the new Spanish language Mission work.

I arrived in Tucson early in January and was met at the Tucson National Airport by Rev. Clarence Stogsdill and Bill Curtis. We visited while we drove to the Tucson parsonage where I was delighted to make the acquaintance of Pastor Stogsdill's wife, Wilma, and their son, Rodger.

Later Clarence drove me around to meet some of the laymen of the Tucson church. Jim Burk, who is identified in one of the pictures, is a 6 foot plus, good natured, energetic Christian. Jim is in the Real Estate Development business and we enjoyed our visit in his office. Another interesting layman that we visited in his place of business was Dave Forman, formerly of North Liberty, Indiana. Dave does electrical work on airplane instrument panels. His company rebuilds twin engined Beechcraft planes for individual use, customizing I guess you would call it. They had a large number on the floor and can lengthen them, install turbojet engines, alter cargo capacities, and equip them with elaborate automatic navigation instruments. Bill Curtis also enjoyed this visit because of his experience and interest in flying.

We then went to see a beautiful little white chapel in the Mexican area. The chapel is for sale and Bill thinks it may be the location needed. The asking price is in the neighborhood of $23,000. We finished the afternoon with a visit with a Mexican family. Bill read scripture and offered prayer in Spanish.

On Friday of the week we had a meeting with some of the laymen of the church. We gave a brief talk on the Laymen's organization, outlining some of our past, present, and future projects, and supplied them with N.L.O. goal sheets and constitutions. I encouraged them to organize and become involved in our national work as well as all the things they can do to assist the local work. They were assured that all eyes would be on the work in Tucson since the Curtises are being included in our N.L.O. project for the Spanish Bi-Lingual Mission.



NEW YEAR'S EVE IN CALIFORNIA

New Year's Eve was an exciting occasion for President Jim Payne as he celebrated with the youth at the Stockton Brethren Church. Some 42 youth, in attendance for the occasion, were served with a delicious banquet by the men of the district, dressed in party hats, an appropriate costume, and a smile. At 9:00 the kids were joined by the adults for a New Year's program and the evening was climaxed by a full Communion Service at the midnight hour. President Payne says he was honored and privileged to be present and in such a service at the time he officially assumed office as National Layman President for 1974-75.





Earlier in the week Jim enjoyed a Layman-Ministers Banquet at the Tracy church. A fine number of men responded and the fellowship was rewarding.

The New Year was begun by joining with Bill Hubble, a devoted, active layman of Lathrop, in a visitation venture. Jim and Brother Hubble visited a new Christian, some prospects and a faithful worker, Bob Hoover, who has his own Gospel Tract Display where he works and is a strong, cheerful witness in spite of some adversity.

"There are many good laymen in the California district and we will be expecting to hear more from them." —Jim Payne

LAYNEWS NOTES

The Oakhill Laymen, West Virginia, are meeting monthly in the homes of their members and set a new attendance record for the third straight month in February. They are working on a project of visiting in the various rest homes in the area to conduct worship services. The Officers this year are: President—Burl Burton, Vice President—Harry Payne, Secretary-Treasurer—Bill Buskus.

* * *

The Spring Rally of the Pennsylvania District Laymen was held at Jones Mills April 19. We hope to have a detailed report for you soon.

* * *

THE ARDMORE Laymen have an extensive program. Take a look at this: Father and Son Banquet, Pancake & Sausage Supper, Subsidize EVANGELIST subscriptions, purchase a Sound System, Annual Corn & Sausage Supper, help serve the Mother-Daughter Banquet, Ten Dollar Club Members, and services at the Hope Rescue Mission. Can you top that?

* * *

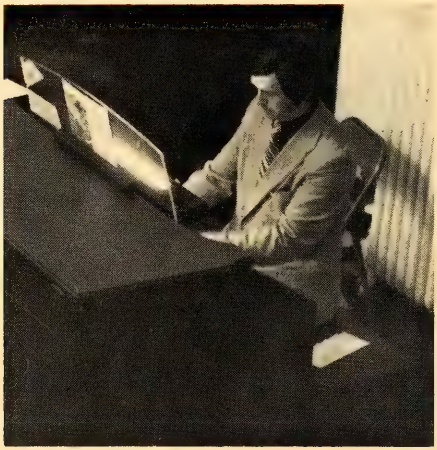
Smithville, Ohio Laymen also put on a Pancake Supper and a very successful HOBBY NIGHT. Nearly 100 attended to see displays of Coins, Stamps, Watch Fobs, Rocks, Magazines, Cookbooks, Antiques, Dolls, Music, Knitting, Scuba Diving, Model Plane building and flying, Candy Making, Medals, and many others. A comment: "You name it and there was a display about it."

A CHALLENGE
WANTED!! 12 MEN!!
TO GO WITH PRES. JIM
TO
ARGENTINA IN JANUARY
1975



CHURCH NEWS

NORTH MANCHESTER FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH DEDICATES NEW ALLEN ORGAN



A capacity audience was thrilled at the pealing organ sounds which Mr. Bill Fasig brought forth from the new Allen Digital Computer Organ (System 301) which was dedicated Palm Sunday evening, April 7 at 7:30 P.M. at Manchester First Brethren Church.

Mr. Fasig is not unknown to the Brethren Church, as he served for 12 years in the Argentine CAVEA ministry; he became known to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and is currently working full time with the crusade ministries. We were fortunate to find a time when he could "work in" this dedicatory concert. He presented the concert in two parts: The Allen Organ in Classics, and the Allen Organ in Sacred Music —most of which was the rendition of requests from the audience. His friendly manner was most pleasing to his listeners, but did not detract from his artistic ability which displayed the fantastic possibilities of the Allen Organ.

The 25-voice Choir assisted in the evening service by singing Young's "Come, Praise The Lord!" as an introit, and contributed to responsive scripture by singing the 100th Psalm as written by Mueller. At the organist's intermission, they sang Posegate's "Holy, Lord of Hosts," text of which is taken from Revelation. Sharing his beautiful tenor voice with us was a former member of the congregation, Mr. Gary Jackson, who now resides at North Charleston, Ohio. Gary was formerly a soloist with the famed Purdue Glee Club.

It is our prayer that this Memorial Organ will be a lasting commemoration of our loved ones for many years to come, and that it will be a means of our expression of praise and worship to God through the inspiration of music.

Guests were present from many of our sister churches in Indiana, some of whom we recognized from Roanoke, Milford, New Paris, Brighton Chapel, as well as local people from surrounding non-Brethren churches.

MATHIAS, WEST VIRGINIA

Based upon community and professional contributions over the past several years, the national organization of Outstanding Young Women of America has recognized Miss Barbara Jane Fitzwater of Mathias, West Virginia, as an Outstanding Young Woman of 1973.



Janie is a Sunday School teacher and pianist in the Mathias Brethren Church. She is also active in the work of the Southeastern District of the Brethren Church serving as assistant secretary, secretary of the Board of Christian Education, and Patroness for the Sisterhood.

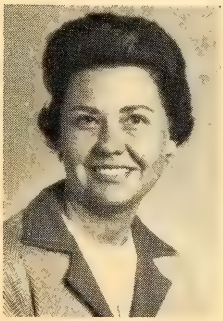
Not only is she an active member of the Mathias Home Demonstration Club, she is always willing to lend a helping hand to other community organizations which include the Fire Company and Auxiliary.

Janie has served as leader of the Bowman 4-H Club for three years and prior to that she was an assistant leader. Her other 4-H activities include serving on the Hardy County Extension Service Committee, and serving as an IFYE consultant for the Hardy County 4-H Leaders. She was inducted into the West Virginia All-Stars at the fall 4-H Leaders' Conference at Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp.

She is an elementary teacher in the Hardy County School system and has served as treasurer of the Hardy County Education Association and secretary of the County Association of Classroom Teachers' Association.

She is a member of the faculty of Wardensville School where she has taught the third grade for the past six years.

In recognition of past achievements and service in the field of education, Mrs. Annabelle F. Vance has been selected as an Outstanding Educator In America and is listed in the 1973-74 edition of OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS IN AMERICA.



Annabelle graduated from Mathias High School in 1954 as valedictorian of her class. She entered West Virginia University in the fall of 1954 and received a Bachelor of Music degree in music education in June 1958. Having returned to the University for many summer sessions, she has added an additional major in the field of English and is presently working towards a Master's degree.

She has taught in Paw Paw, West Virgina, Fauquier County, Virginia, and is currently teaching music and English at Mathias High School where her husband Jim is also a teacher and coach.

She is active in local church and community activities and is often called upon to lend a hand to community organizations of which she is not an active member. She is also serving as secretary of the Southeastern District Conference of the Brethren Church as well as the secretary of the Mathias Brethren Church.

Eight-year old Johnny, saying Grace at Breakfast, ended with "We thank you for this beautiful day." His mother, knowing that it was raining, said, "Johnny, this day is anything but beautiful." He replied, "Mother, you should never judge a day by its weather."

Wayne Heights Highlights

250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

INDIANA DISTRICT



Five hundred twenty-five Brethren from the Indiana District held a great celebration at North Manchester April 23. This was the largest single gathering of the Brethren in Indiana for a long, long time. The greatest thing about the anniversary celebration was not the great crowd but the great spirit! The people were filled with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving!

The theme of the program was: 250th Anniversary in America—**THE BRETHREN CHURCH—A PROUD HERITAGE—PRAISE GOD—PRAY FOR A GREAT FUTURE—?** The question mark symbolized each person and his commitment to the future. In other words, the future of the Brethren Church is directly dependent upon the spiritual life, commitment, and witness of each member of the church. At the conclusion of the service, Dr. Charles Munson spoke about the heritage of the church beginning at Schwarzenau. He challenged the guests with the proud heritage and the future—"The fields are white unto harvest. . . ." The invitation was extended to the young people to commit their lives to full-time Christian ministry. Approximately thirty-five young men and women committed their lives to Christ, the Christian ministry, and the church.

Dr. Munson covenanted himself with others who are willing to pray daily and specifically for "laborers" for the "fields which are white unto harvest." A great evening, a great conclusion!

The churches of the District participated in the fellowship meal. Some churches brought fruit trays, others brought relish trays, and some brought the homemade bread; together with the food prepared by the local church, there was created a genuine fellowship meal. Christian fellowship and "koinonia" was formed by each participating in this way.

The success of this historic event was also made possible by the North Manchester Church and their pastor, Rev. Woodrow Immel. The cooperation of this church and the local school officials was simply marvelous! The new life and renewal of this church is evident not only in the general life of the church but in the specific ministries of young people, Bible classes, etc. The volunteers from North Manchester Church, as well as from Warsaw and Jefferson, were hosts and hostesses at the many tables. Again, it was only because of willing Christian services on the part of these people which made the evening possible.



The program included special music from the churches of the districts. Mr. and Mrs. Trump, ladies trio from Nappanee, "The Regeneration" singing ensemble from Teegarden, a youth chorus from Warsaw, and Mr. Mark Baker from Manchester. Mr. Bob Kropf and Carol Wogoman led the celebration in singing.

The gathering together of over five hundred Brethren people to celebrate the anniversary and heritage of the church speaks for itself. It is a demonstration of the firm belief, not only of a proud heritage but of a power-filled future. Young people, young adults, young married couples, as well as adults and senior citizens were all represented at this event. The church in this age, as in every age, is the "family of God." It was the Savior Jesus Christ who called God His Father, which means that those who believe and are committed to Him are a "brotherhood." May the abounding grace and the abiding peace of the Lord be manifest in the heart and the life of the Brethren Church. —A proud heritage—pray for a great future!



SOLZHENITSYN PRAYS AT ABBEY, IS URGED TO VISIT JERUSALEM

EINSIEDEIN, Switzerland (EP)—As exiled Nobel laureate Alexander Solzhenitsyn stopped here to pray in an ancient Roman Catholic abbey, observers speculated on whether he would accept an invitation to spend some time in Jerusalem.

It was considered a good possibility that if the Soviet author accepted Mayor Teddy Kollek's invitation, he might visit the Holy City at Easter in order to attend celebrations at Gethsemane Convent, which belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn has had no official contacts with the convent, but he has been critical of the relationship between the Orthodox Church in Russia and the Soviet government, particularly in his famous "Lenten Letter" of 1972.

On his visit to the cathedral town here, 25 miles southwest of Zurich, the writer prayed in the Roman Catholic Abbey of Our Lady of Hermits.

As he walked in the abbey garden, he told reporters, "Only four days ago I was in the Lefortovo Prison accused of being a traitor to my motherland. They kept hold of me like a prisoner and each step I took they accompanied me. I did not know where I was going."

Mr. Solzhenitsyn recalled that when he was sent into exile in West Germany, "I was surprised when I saw a plaque saying 'Frankfurt am Main' " at the airport.

"It was then I realized I was free," he added. "It was most extraordinary."

MENNONITES WARN OF DEVIL, OCCULT INFLUENCE

LANCASTER, Pa. (EP)—The current surge of interest in the occult and spiritism could lead people to unwittingly play into the hands of the devil, the Lancaster Mennonite Conference warned here.

A resolution passed by the group warned believers not to be fooled by the current fad and expose themselves to Satan's wiles.

The resolution was one of five passed during the one-day meeting of some 500 bishops, ministers, deacons and holders of ministerial permits at the Weaverland Mennonite Church.

The other resolutions concerned the food crisis, jewelry, social drinking and spiritual maturity.

The Mennonites saw the rise of interest in occultism as stemming from the feeling of helplessness and loneliness which "results from materialistic philosophy which limits reality to the physical world."

SINGAPORE CHRISTIANS SEND MISSIONARY GIFT TO NEEDY TEXAS CHURCH

SINGAPORE (EP)—A gift of $1,000 was dispatched by the Singapore district of the Chinese Methodist Conference to a low income Spanish-speaking congregation at Grand Prairie, Texas, marking an historic switch in the flow of mission aid.

Dr. Howard Brinton of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, believed it was the first time in his denomination that money was sent from overseas churches to help a U.S. church.

MISSIONARY NEWS

NEW TEN DOLLAR CLUB MEMBERS IN 1973



The TEN DOLLAR CLUB is for people who have a special interest in Church Extension and want to have a part in starting new Brethren Churches. Not more than twice a year a call goes out from the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church to the club members for a new church or a relocation of a small but growing church that needs the relocation for success. The members respond with a gift of ten dollars or more for this purpose although, since this is not a legal contract, occasionally members who are passing through personal financial difficulties are unable to respond and this is their option.

Some members of the club have multiple memberships, that is when a call goes out they respond regularly with much more than ten dollars. However we value every member of the club because it is together that we can help these young churches—groups which alone would struggle many extra years if it were not for the help of the TEN DOLLAR CLUB.

If you would like to be a member, write the Missionary Board, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805 for more information or send your ten dollars for the current call which is for the new church in Bradenton, Florida along with a note saying you would like to be a member of this elite group of church builders called the TEN DOLLAR CLUB.

We welcome into the club the following new members during 1973:

Beverly Baer Goshen
Mrs. Isabelle Cochran Pittsburgh
Rev. and Mrs. Stephen S. Cole .. North Liberty
Mrs. Arlie Collins Lathrop
Jean A. Conlon Massillon
Mr. and Mrs. Vester Cox Lathrop
Ted Creswell Lathrop
Artie Elliott Lathrop
Mac Freeman Lathrop
Charles Grinder Vandergrift
Robert Hoover Lathrop
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Huse Manteca
Mr. and Mrs. Emery R. Kridler Vandergrift
Mrs. Della Laughlin Wayne Heights
Miss Mary Agnes Laughlin Wayne Heights
Rev. and Mrs. Norman D. Long Pittsburgh
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lowmaster .. Vandergrift
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Mellott Wayne Heights
William L. Mellott Hagerstown
Harry Meyers Berlin
Dorothy Overcast Lathrop
Edna Peoples Lathrop
Post Grads S. S. Class Wayne Heights
Joe Schlegel Wayne Heights
Margaret E. Smith Wayne Heights
Mr. and Mrs. John Snyder Hagerstown
Harry Tiger Vandergrift
Melvin E. Walker Vandergrift
Susan Whitted Park St. - Ashland

ARE WE PRAYING TOO SMALL?

The Rev. Ben Pearson, founder and president emeritus of World Gospel Crusade, passed this article on to me. Ben and his wife were missionaries to Colombia and Brazil for many years, so he writes from personal experience.

I am sharing Ben's message with you in the hope that we may all realize in our own lives the sort of prayer that releases the infinite might of God. Perhaps we have been underestimating God's power; perhaps none of us has been praying big enough.

—Frank A. (Uncle Frank) Ineson
International Intercessors



When Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, author of STREAMS IN THE DESERT, visited Colombia in 1945, it was on the verge of La Violencia, a time of political and social disturbances in which some 300,000 persons were murdered. Political passions, the spirit of personal vendetta and the traditions of a gun-pulling, machete-swinging society made possible settling all differences, even those which were religious, by violent means.

One so gentle, so filled with divine love as Mrs. Cowman found it difficult to believe what was happening. However, day by day the inescapable realities of a ruthless political situation in which ecclesiastical authorities participated began to dawn upon her. But this could not quench her vibrancy nor dim her radiant faith.

One day as gospel singer and composer Bill Gillam was driving Mrs. Cowman past the Metropolitan Cathedral in Medellin, she said, "Bill, some day you will preach there!" It seemed impossible that one who knew Colombia could make such a statement, but Mrs. Cowman also knew God!

In a devotional hour she said, "We read in God's Word that the Lord 'shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath' (Psalms 110:5). King means the seat of government. And what is the seat of government of the politico-religious forces here? Is it not in Rome? Should we not pray that God will strike through Rome to transform this condition?"

Today this may not seem as astonishing as it did then. It was then like expecting righteouness in America through the Mafia or suggesting that Ulster would be the source of peace and goodwill for the British Isles.

Events immediately following this seemed to mock Mrs. Cowman's faith—things became much worse. Had God forgotten? No! He was just preparing the instrument for answering her prayer and the prayers of thousands of others for greater freedom to proclaim the gospel.

In 1958 a pope had to be elected. Neither liberals nor conservatives in the College of Cardinals could muster enough votes for their candidate. As an interim expedient, an older man was selected as a caretaker pope. Cardinal Roncalli became Pope John XXIII. Someone has said, "He took more care of the Roman church in five years than others had in the previous 400 years."

One phrase summarized his attitudes: "Protestants are separated brethren." It expressed understanding, sympathy, Christian regard and appreciation; soft as the sun's rays, and as powerful, it began melting the rigid hatreds that had prevailed. Antipathies began to be replaced by dialogue and comprehension. Archbishops even proclaimed that Catholics might purchase and study the Protestant Bible. To those who had lived through the period of violence this seemed a miracle worthy of the first century Church.

(*continued on next page*)

Later, Catholic Bible Week was begun—in Medellin, Colombia, "The Little Rome of South America!" Protestant ministers of the gospel were asked to take part. A Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Jaime Ortiz, was invited to speak at the Antioquia University on the subject, "Christian Unity in **the Gospels**." In the packed auditorium sat the governor and political figures, the archbishop and members of the hierarchy, the faculty and students. This was the university from which, ten years before, Ortiz was expelled for owning and reading a New Testament. Incredible!

But is not faith and what God can accomplish always incredible to us? And did not the Lord God Almighty ask long ago, "Is anything too hard for God?" (Jer. 32:27).

Are we asking God for things too small, too much on the surface? Might we not take hold of nations by prayer? Could only David, Jehoshaphat, Jeremiah and Daniel, Peter, John and Paul expect such mighty works? However irresistible the enemy may appear, however fantastic others may think our prayers, does not our Lord throw Himself wide open to our intercession?—"anything in my Name." Can He not again "work a work in our days which ye will not believe, though it be told you?" (Hab. 1:5).

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BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



EXPRESSING BIBLE TRUTH



AT BRETHREN HOUSE WE TRY TO ASSURE EACH CHILD THE OPPORTUNITIES AND GUIDANCE TO RECEIVE AND EXPRESS SOME ACCOUNT OR MESSAGE FROM SCRIPTURE. THEY CAN **RECEIVE** BY LISTENING, SEEING, OR GOING THROUGH SOME MOTIONS. THEN AFTER THEY MIX THIS EXPERIENCE WITH WHAT THEY ALREADY KNOW, THEY CAN **EXPRESS** THE MESSAGE IN MANY WAYS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE RECENT **EXPRESSIVE HAPPENINGS** AT BRETHREN HOUSE.

"God zapped the bread!" said Johnny after he had participated in some extemporaneous drama as the little boy who took his lunch to see Jesus on the hillside. Johnny had offered his lunch (a little unwillingly) of 5 mini-loaves and 2 fish (cut from baloney) when Jesus, played by Pastor Lersch, asked the disciples how they would feed the immense crowd gathered. And 12 basketsfu were gathered after the crowd had eaten from Johnny's lunch. Of course some pretending was necessary, but Johnny's comment indicated his understanding of the miracle performed by Jesus God did indeed ZAP the bread. A 1974 expression of a timeless truth. "I'm going to tell Mom what happened to her lunch," Johnny told one of the other picnickers as he left the scene.

"I just came here to warm myself by the fire," retorted Peter (played by 10-year-old Sherry), "I don't know this Jesus you're talking about!" Just then 3-year-old Donna, perched on a stool nearby crowed, "Cock-a-doodle doo." And Peter turned toward the house (window of Brethren House) to see Jesus looking at him. This was another occasion for creative drama on Sunday morning. Four children had heard the story of Peter's three denials. The two banners suspended from the ceiling advertised the day's considerations — "BETRAYAL" and "DENIAL." Now these children were taking turns being Peter and the questioners in the courtyard where Jesus was being examined. The personality of each child enacting the scene shone through their characterizations, but the basic truth of the story from the Bible remained intact. As they dramatized they were ingraining this account into their memories and hopefully their lives.

Puppets cut from colorful felt are also good aids in summarizing and expressing Bible stories. In order to prepare the puppet show, the students must go over all of the details of the story—settings, time changes, characters, actions, dialogue, narration. In order to present the story to others, the puppeteers must be certain of the story themselves. And the audience is usually sufficiently interested to pay close attention. Since those manipulating the puppets are hidden many children will try this who won't expose themselves to the risk of being laughed at in other kinds of drama.

—Jean

WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Pastor Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee

A Special Hospital Ward

Two years ago John (our son) and I visited the Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital just outside DaNang, South Vietnam. (You'll probably recall some of the pictures and previous reports.)

The scenes are still quite vivid . . . what we saw as we walked among the 100 bed-bound children patients that April morning. Of particular intereest was the "Burn Care Unit," where we observed two kids receiving treatment for ugly burn damage.

Just recently I read additional information in World Relief Commission literature about the specialized treatment of burned patients at Hoa Khanh.

The burn ward, only air conditioned room at Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital, holds 16 children. Burns, which make up 10% of the hospital case load, are caused by accidents with boiling water, explosion of kerosene stoves, and occasionally from weapons (although not napalm damage as might be suspected). Many stoves explode because of the use of black-market "kerosene," which is often a low grade of gasoline and too explosive for average home use. The kids then suffer.

Burns require extensive skin grafting. The hospital's high degree of "takes" (successful grafts) has become known throughout Vietnam and patients are referred from other hospitals. Much credit goes to the diminutive head nurse known as Gwen, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Khang, who is a paramedic trained by U.S. Navy doctors and orthopedic surgeons when the Marines founded the hospital. (It is now owned and operated by WRC.) Gwen was a seamstress when the doctors discovered her in 1965.

In a letter to Dr. Robert Long, Medical Director, from Dr. John Constable, plastic surgeon in burn care at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, he said: "I was extraordinarily impressed by my visit to your burn ward. Your fame will spread far in U.S. burn circles."

..... A Poem

The first evening our tour group arrived at our Saigon hotel we were met and greeted by Stu Willcuts, WRC staff member in Vietnam, and his lovely new bride. Stu made all the arrangements for our two-day Vietnam visit and escorted us to all formal and informal appointments with great knowhow.

Here is a poem written by Mrs. Willcuts, now that she is better acquainted with the work at Hoa Khanh Hospital. The title? **"Burn Patches."**

See him there—
someone's contribution to humanity.
Once a laughing, lively product of love.
Once he played tag with others.
Once he jumped and ran
. . . and cried when he fell.
But see him now and you cry, too.
To see what happened—
results of fire,
Of burns that hurt
but hurt no more.
Who is this child?
He is one of thousands—yes,
there are many like him.
Children who once had smooth,
dark skin.
And now have skin of patches.

A Life

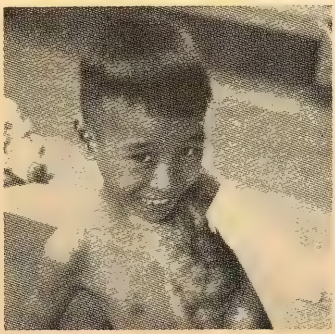
Eleven-year-old Thiet was brought into Hoa Khanh Hospital with third degree burns of his face, neck, chest, left arm and hand, caused by boiling water. Emergency measures to save his life were followed by extensive skin grafts.

Thiet had never even heard the name of Jesus, but through the love shown him by the Christian staff and by Bible stories and conversation with Mr. Ai, the chaplain, he came to understand who Jesus is. One day he went to Mr. Ai and as they prayed together, Thiet became a Christian.

He became the burn ward morale builder, telling the children of God's love, who loves them even if they are scarred or deformed.

These are eternal dividends!

—St. Petersburg, Florida



Thiet is now comfortable, happy and on the road to recovery at Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital.

Ashland Theological Seminary
910 Center
Ashland, Ohio 44805



Graduation Time Is Gift Time



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$2.95



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 Paul Martin. **$1.95**
- **Good Morning, Lord: Devotions for College Students.**
 Louis O. Caldwell. **$1.95**

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The Brethren
EVANGELIST



MINISTERIAL STUDENT AID

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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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NOTES and COMMENTS

Due to limitations stated in postal regulations pertaining to the BRETHREN EVANGELIST issues and to the print shop vacation there will not be an issue of the magazine for dates June 15 and July 13.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Page 44 Rev. J. Milton Bowman
Member: Nappanee (instead of Newark)

Area Code Correction, pg. 42
McDANIEL, William (S)
Phone (302) 684-4512

Correction
Lyon, Thoburn C. Page 45

LORD, I'M THIRSTY

A tender stem
nudged its way
through crusted soil
seeking, searching
the morning dew
to quench its thirst,
only to thirst again.
A Samaritan woman
nudged her way
through prejudice
seeking, searching
the Morning Dew
to quench her thirst,
never to thirst again.

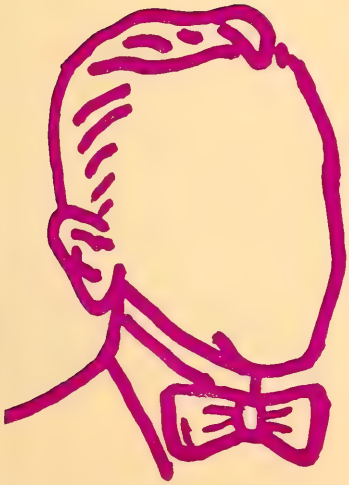
by Rev. Joe Hanna

(Editor's note: This poem was inspired by the preparation of a Bible study by Rev Hanna based on John 4.)

By the Way

THERE IS ONLY ONE YOU

by Winston O. Abbott



There will never be, in this whole vast world, another person exactly like yourself. And before you laugh off that truth with a casual shrug and "perhaps that's a good thing," you had better pause for a moment to realize the impact of those few simple words. You are an individual. You are unique. You are one of a kind.

Only you can fill your particular place in the world in which you live. You are endowed with a personality that belongs to no one else. You have talents, great or small, that are priceless if used to their fullest. You have intelligence and the ability to make your own decisions.

You can believe that their is a master pattern of order and purpose for the world. Or, if you choose, you may believe that anything you do can make no difference to yourself or to others. If you choose to believe the latter in the face of all the evidence to the contrary, you are foolish as well as unique. You have unlimited opportunity to work for a better world and, incidentally, to discover real happiness for yourself.

A few moments of sincere thought should convince you that you are really quite a person. You can be considerate and kind and sympathetic or you can be the proverbial "pain in the neck." You can look for and perform your share of the world's work or you can sit back in an easy chair and wait for the world to grant you a living—at the expense of somebody else.

You are given countless other choices. You can grumble and gripe and complain that you really never had a chance or you can do your own job better than it was done yesterday and create your own opportunities.

You can read good literature and improve your mind with the best thoughts of the world's thinkers and philosophers or you can pick up some trashy novel and pore over it in some secret place.

You can devote your energies to accumulating a lot of cash for your heirs to fight over at some later date or you can learn the joy of sharing and find abundance beyond your fondest dreams. There is an immutable law of our universe that all you take with you when you leave is what you have given away. You are without doubt the most important person that you will ever chance to know, and so you must accept the responsibilities that are inherent in your greatness. You can make no alibis or excuses that will stand up under the probing of your own connscience. You must leave this world some day—with the world being a bit better or a bit worse for your living. There is only one YOU!

Reprinted with permission from the Summer 1972 issue of The LUTHERAN Digest.

MISSIONARY NEWS

OPEN DOORS FOUND IN COLOMBIA

by Kenneth L. Solomon



The Solomons as they arrived in Colombia less than one year ago.

In our last messages before the Ohio Conference delegates and then to the Park Street Congregation we felt led of the Lord to appeal to the Brethren to, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "pray also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ . . ." (Col. 4:3) In this report I wish to share with you how marvelously God has answered the prayers of you who responded to this appeal and of those of you who never have forgotten to pray for your missionaries.

I. THE FIRST OPEN DOOR

This was the door of the many taxis and buses that were opened to us as we traveled on public transportation here in Medellin. Inside these vehicles we have found many, many Colombians who have opened to us the doors of their hearts and have eagerly received our spoken testimony and the many written Gospel messages in tract form.

II. THE SECOND OPEN DOOR

In answer to your prayers God opened the door of opportunity for witnessing to the hotel personnel and the waiters in the restaurants where we had to eat until we found a house to rent.

III. THE THIRD OPEN DOOR

We found this one to be the doors of the homes and the hearts of our neighbors. They have responded far beyond our expectation ("O ye of little faith" we often quote to ourselves). We reluctantly left our friends in Argentina, but God again has fulfilled His wonderful promise: "THERE IS NO MAN THAT HATH LEFT HOUSE, OR BRETHREN, OR SISTERS, OR FATHER, OR MOTHER, OR WIFE, OR CHILDREN, OR LANDS, FOR MY SAKE, AND THE GOSPEL'S, BUT HE SHALL RECEIVE AN HUNDREDFOLD **NOW** IN **THIS** TIME, HOUSES, AND BRETHREN, AND SISTERS, AND MOTHERS, AND CHILDREN, AND LANDS, WITH PERSECUTIONS: AND IN THE WORLD TO COME ETERNAL LIFE. (Mark 10:29, 30)

IV. THE FOURTH DOOR

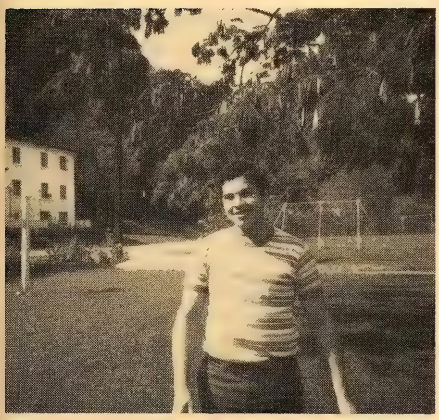
As a member of the Ashland, Ohio Evening Lion's club I found a wide open door in one of Medellin's Lion Clubs. After one of the meetings at least six of the members gave me an ample opportunity to preach to them the Gospel of our Lord as they plied me with all kinds of questions. Most of our ministry here has been of this "dialogue" type of responding to the spiritual needs of the people. Then on various occasions, I have been given a wide open door to the hearts of individual members as we had contact before or after the meetings. One member, has even accepted the invitation (given to all) to drop by our house for Bible Study. He, and various others of the members, live just a few blocks from our home.

V. THE FIFTH DOOR

In order not to tire you too much I shall include in this category the open door found in contact with the children of our neighborhood, the employees of the bank, of the grocery store, of the furniture stores, etc. **I THANK GOD FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND THEIR HAVING BEEN SO AMPLY ANSWERED!**

EXCHANGE STUDENT AT RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN TRAINING SCHOOL

During the current school year Riverside Christian Training School at Lost Creek has hosted an exchange student from Venezuela. We have asked him to give us a little information about his life and plans for the future.



Ivan Alfonzo Yamarfe

My name is Ivan Alfonzo Yamarfe. I am writing a little about my life in Venezuela and since coming to the United States. I come from a family of five; one brother, one sister, my parents and myself. My father is 53, my mother 41, my older brother 24, my sister 22, and I am 18. My oldest brother is married and has a one year old son. Both he and his wife work. My sister works and is a student and lives at home as she is single. My father works with household cleaning articles and my mother takes care of the home. All live in Venezuela.

I have come to the United States principally because I want to learn English but also for a change in environment and customs, and to make new friends. Also so that when I return I migh be able to support myself in some way since my parents cannot keep me all of my life. As I grow older their lives become shorter and they will not be able to give me the things I desire and need.

I have attended church since I was eight years old. In Venezuela I attended the "Free Evangelical Church." During the years I have walked in the ways of the Lord I have received blessings and reprehensions.

I have come to the United States because; first, my siter lived here for three years and is familiar with the life in the United States; second, because I already knew many people who could help me with problems besides those here at Riverside; and third, I am at Riverside by the will of God who brought me here.

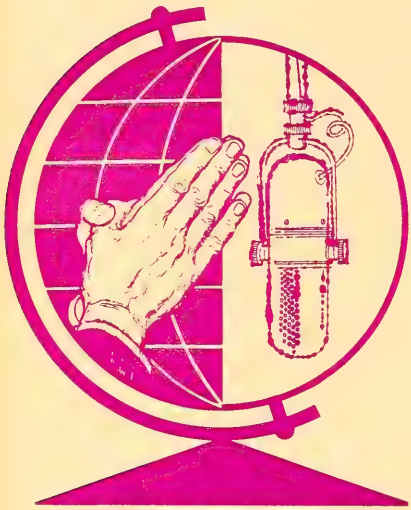
I want to make the most of my time at Riverside because since God brought me here I want to learn more of the Word of God, choruses, etc. I want to get the most possible from all of the courses and learn all that the teachers will give me.

As a profession I would like to work as a commercial airlines pilot and for this I need to know languages well: in particular English, French, Spanish, Italian, and German. To learn these I need money and also to pay for the commercial pilot course.

As a final point, when I return to Venezuela again I can work, finish my studies, pay my way, and help my parents.

Ivan Alfonso Yamarfe

GOSPEL BROADCASTING PRAYER DAY June 8, 1974



The second Sunday of June each year is observed as a special day of prayer for missionary broadcasters around the world. The International Christian Broadcasters have asked all Christians to join in prayer for the mass media ministiries world-wide. They have challenged Christians everywhere to pray regularly that God will:

. . . fill each broadcaster with his Holy Spirit.
. . . give wisdom in program preparation.
. . . supply the broadcaster's financial needs.
. . . bring many to Himself through the radio and television broadcasts.

Brethren have a part in missionary broadcasting through their support of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church and its commitment to CAVEA the radio ministry in Buenos Aires, Argentina. For many years the Brethren have helped support this ministry which prepares gospel programs which are aired all over Latin America. Not only have the Brethren supported this interdenominational ministry with offerings but also through missionaries who have participated in the program over the years. Beginning with Robert Byler, co-founder, programmer, and musician; June Byler, musician; John Rowsey, technician; Kenneth Solomon, member of the board; Raymond Aspinall, musician; Bill Curtis, technician, programmer, and musician; Mark Logan, technician; and presently being served by Bill Winter, technician.

Pray for this ministry year round and in particular on June 8th, the Gospel Broadcasting Prayer Day for 1974.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



WORKSHOPS

With the trunk of the Olds loaded till the springs groaned, we headed "south" recently for a workshop in Sarasota. The invitation was to share with the teachers in Sarasota some of the teaching ideas developed in our experiences here at Brethren House—and we were eager to respond.

The joy found in sharing our work with others brings a special kind of pleasure. When I first came to Brethren House, I discovered that the Lersches had created many unusual things for teaching the Bible, but these materials got buried in the drawers and cupboards to be quickly forgotten. I was amazed and promptly began to organize, catalog and retrieve these useful ideas. Since that time, as the third member of the team, I have been a part of developing many more ideas that teach Bible truths. These we have used with the children here and I have meticulously filed and recorded them for future reference.

Now my efforts are paying off as we are being asked more and more to bring our materials and illustrate to others some different ways to teach Bible truths effectively.

We have had or have scheduled 15 workshops with groups of teachers in the last few months. This task is time-consuming and tiring as it calls on all of our resources as individuals to conduct such a workshop, but the feedback we have received from those attending has been astounding.

We hear the following comments—

"Now, look at that! Isn't that a **good** idea!"

"Just a minute; let me write that down.

And especially do we like to hear this—

"I am going to think more about my class and see what kinds of things I can do that would be better than what we have done before."

When teachers stand back and take a new look at themselves and their kids and reevaluate what they are teaching and how best to teach it, we feel we have accomplished our goal.

It is not our intention to have everyone do things our way. That would be deadly. But we do hope to spark the creative natures in teachers

and help them use the gifts they have. Also we would hope to lead some teachers out of the Saturday night preparation syndrome and help them become more effective communicators of God's Word.

THE BEST LEARNING COMES THROUGH EXPERIENCING AND DOING is our belief. As a result we design activities for teaching the Bible that require the children to become involved in the process rather than passively receptive to our teaching.

Because of this belief, we practice what we preach in our workshops for teachers. The first hour of our workshops is a time for teachers to roam throughout the area and become INVOLVED—listening, looking, trying, experimenting and testing the ideas we have available. Throughout the time we try to stay alert to questions and to help when someone doesn't know how to operate the equipment. But the learning is going on all around without a one of us lecturing. We are convinced that our role as "teacher" is best accomplished by preparing and providing opportunities for an individual to learn the information on his own.

In the last hour of the workshop then we come together to exchange ideas and bring into focus some of the experiences that each has been involved in. This sharing time among all the teachers present has been rewarding to us on many occasions for we see the "wheels turning" and the ideas coming among them for new life in their own church schools.

The Methodist and Presbyterian churches in our area have shown the most interest in our ministry. We have been invited to take workshops to Methodist churches as far away as Gainesville, Tallahassee and Bradenton and are similarly associated with a network of Presbyterian churches throughout the west coast of Florida. We anticipate more workshops with them in the near future.

As we seek God's leading for the direction of our ministry, we are a bit stunned by this clear indication that we are to continue sharing through these workshops. The amazing part of it all is that we have not sought out these workshops; they have been requested of us. It is our intention now to prepare a brochure explaining our workshop so that we can distribute it to others who may be interested—BUT—to this point we have not taken the initiative. We prayerfully accept this as God's directive for our ministry.

—Bonnie for the Staff

HAVE YOU HEARD !



IT'S GETTING LATE

Your registration should be mailed before July 26th if you want to be a part of the special **LAYMEN ALIVE** training program during the 1974 General Conference! Though primarily intended to equip the laity for more effective sharing of their faith, pastors are cordially invited to register also for the training so that they might carry it back to their own congregations.

It seems a shame, but participation has had to be limited to the first sixty who enroll by sending their application and five dollars registration to the Missionary Board. Fill in the registration below **NOW** and mail it with your check **IMMEDIATELY** in order not to lose out on this opportunity!

This form and your check or money order should be mailed before July 26, 1974 to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Mr., Mrs., Miss _____

Street or R.F.D. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Church _____

Age: 15-25 _____ 26-40 _____ over 40_____

Enclosed is my check for $5.00 (made out to LAYMEN ALIVE) to cover registration and all materials for the Laymen Alive training at General Conference August 13-17, 1974. I commit myself to participate in the entire training from 1:30 to 4:30 P.M. on each of these five days as the Lord enables so that I might be better equipped to serve Him.

signed

The Brethren LAYMAN

PARK STREET BOYS MEET MONTHLY



The second Monday of every month is a Red Letter Day, or perhaps night, for the boys of the Park Street Brethren Church. That's the night the Brotherhood meets.

Averaging 14 to 17 in attendance, the boys meet in the church Fellowship Hall, with Bill Hubler and Joe Shultz, for an hour and a half of fellowship, refreshments, and devotions. Several times a year they go on a field trip, to see the Cleveland Indians, the Browns, a winter retreat at Camp Bethany, or perhaps a jaunt to the Football Hall of Fame. There is something for everyone.

Each meeting is closed with a circle of prayer with all the boys participating.



BANQUET PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR. CLYDE W. TAYLOR

Amid chill winds and a traditionally staid Bostonian atmosphere, heartwarming applause and gratitude filled the East Ballroom of the Statler-Hilton as tribute was paid to Dr. Clyde W. Taylor at the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals. Honoring Dr. Taylor for thirty years of leadership with the NAE, the banquet was attended by friends and associates from around the globe, and highlighted the week-long activities for the 750 delegates. Following the announcement that Dr. Taylor will retire as General Director at the close of the year, a special program of tribute was presented, holding special surprises for Dr. Taylor, including a telegram of good wishes from President Richard M. Nixon.

A taped greeting was received from Dr. Billy Graham, naming Clyde as one of the men "who could stand in the gap resisting the unholy appeal of pride and refusing the unethical attraction of personal gain." A similar message was received from Dr. Taylor's son, Clyde Jr., who is in government service in El Salvador. Further surprises included the presentation of a memorial Book of Remembrance, containing personal greetings from over 200 wellwishers.

Dr. Stephen F. Olford gave a tribute address mentioning the value of using time on earth to serve God, and reminded the delegates that "God wants to guide our lives; it is up to us to find His will follow it and then finish it to the glory of God." As a final honor the NAE presented to Dr. Taylor a sizable check to be used for the purchase of an automobile.



Rev. Smith F. Rose, Executive Secretary of The Brethren Church with Mrs. Ruth Taylor and Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, NAE's general director, following a special tribute banquet honoring Dr. Taylor's service to the National Association of Evangelicals.

Attending the NAE Convention in Boston from the Brethren Church were: Virgil Ingraham, General Secretary of the Mission Board; Pastors Phil Lersch, St. Petersburg, Florida and Paul Steiner, General Conference Moderator of the General Conference, Lanark, Illinois; Rev. Smith F. Rose, Executive Secretary, Central Council and Mrs. Pauline Winfield, President of the National Women's Missionary Society.



$4.00 admits you to the event of the year!

THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS

Our Brethren Church is beginning to **G - R - - O - - - W** . . .
not much yet, but statistics show some growth.



Our Brethren Church needs now and will need persons to shepherd God's flocks in many capacities everywhere in the world. We need pastor/teachers, missionaries, and persons for all kinds of ministries.

The Bible says "pray" so the ANSWER IS OBVIOUS—PRAYER.

Will you unite in a BOND OF PRAYER to pray regularly for men and women who will say "yes" to God and prepare to work anywhere with His flocks?

At a recent Indiana Friendship Meal held April 23, at North Manchester celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Brethren Church in America, the following people united in a BOND OF PRAYER to pray without ceasing for God to provide persons for special ministries.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold W. Baker
Rev. and Mrs. David Cooksey
Rev. Fred Finks
Mrs. Edith Rodkey
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Keppel
Mrs. Marlin Mansfield
Kathy Webb
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Webster
Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Harshbarger
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Biltz
Rev. and Mrs. Jerald Radcliff
Mr. DeWayne Lusch
Ron and Nina Pressler
Mrs. Joe Stout
Mrs. Isaac Stout
Mr. Ralph B. McBride
Mr. Oscar Conrad
Mrs. Ethel Louthain
Mr. Mark Baker
Claude and Jane Stogsdill
Jack and Lenore Oxenrider
Gene and Bonnie Merkle
Mr. Richard E. Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Balsbaugh
Rev. and Mrs. Fredrick Snyder
Rev. and Mrs. William H. Kerner
Mrs. Mary Ellen Maxson
Dan and Marcia Sander
Jerry and Linda Barr
J. R. Turley
Fred Van Duyne
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Miller
Rev. Dale RuLon
George and Ruthe Kerlin
Gene and Linda Lockhart
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Nicholls and Kathy
Mr. Floyd Teusch
Roxie Stahl
Rev. Richard Allison
Mrs. Dale Flora
Mr. Fred Brandon



Will you join this group in a BRETHREN BOND OF PRAYER? A number of young people stood that night indicating their desire to be led of God anywhere to serve Him. Will you join others in praying for more?

If you are willing to become part of an answer to a need, simply indicate that in a letter or on a postcard and state that you want to unite in a BRETHREN BOND OF PRAYER. We are going to trust God for laborers and a harvest.

Could we have persons from every congregation uniting in this BOND OF PRAYER?

Are you one of many from your congregation?

The answer to our need is obvious—prayer.

Unite in a BRETHREN BOND OF PRAYER, write to and unite with:

Charles Munson
Ashland Theological Seminary
910 Center Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805



REV. LESTER E. MYERS

Rev. Lester E. Myers, 77, of Winona Lake, Indiana, passed away on Easter Sunday, April 14, at the Murphy Medical Center, Warsaw, Indiana. He had been in failing health for over a year.

Rev. Myers was born August 11, 1896 in Iowa County, Iowa to Rev. and Mrs. John A. Myers. In addition to being a pastor his father was also a farmer. He had two sisters, Estella, who was a missionary in Africa and Ethel, who taught in a Kentucky Mission.

He attended Ashland College from 1915 to 1919 and again in 1926-27 majoring in an English Divinity Course. He also took a special course at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois in 1919-20.

While attending the Pleasant Grove Brethren Church in North English, Iowa he received the call to enter the Christian Ministry and was ordained by Louis S. Bauman at the Winona Lake Indiana Conference in 1923.

Although he never held a pastorate he had preached a few sermons in various churches but his main ministry was in the preparation of tracts which he wrote, printed and distributed.

He loved children dearly and was very charitable to his friends. He will be remembered by delegates and visitors to the General Conferences as the roving checker player which was one of his hobbies.

Memorial services for Rev. Myers were conducted in the Warsaw, Indiana Brethren Church by Rev. Paul Tinkel with Rev. Claude Stogsdill and Rev. Clyde Landrum assisting.

Further services were held at the Pleasant Grove Brethren Church in North English, Iowa. Interment was in the North English Cemetery.

He was a member of the First Brethren Church of Milledgeville, Illinois and was a resident of Winona Lake since 1968. He is survived by neices and nephews.

The Bible is a window in this prison of hope, through which we look into eternity.—
—John Sullivan Dwight

Our body is a well-set clock, which keeps good time, but if it be too much or indiscreetly tampered with, the alarm runs out before the hour.
—Joseph Hall

Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand.—Mark Twain

V acation
B ible
S chool

Bah Humbug??





by Mary Ellen Drushal

By this date most of you are in the final stages of V.B.S. preparations—and with Scrooge of old, sigh "Bah Humbug," and only long for the final day, the annual weiner roast and ice cream day, and the close of the children's program. Are all the headaches of teacher recruitment, lesson and music preparations, finding suitable crafts to make (and the list goes on—and on—and on) leading up to one or two weeks of V.B.S. really worthwhile? Or has it become another of the sacred traditions that only those who do not help hold dear?

If all of the above mentioned problems fit into your view of V.B.S, then you and Scrooge have a lot in common and you have been left at the dock when the boat of excitement and enthusiasm left?

Some of the most exciting, education and fun-filled times in all of Christian Education are the days spent in Bible School. Granted, there are many problems and frustrations in arriving at the opening day, but as you stand before your group of children, just remember, they are each God's child awaiting your help and instruction from His Word. The responsibility of the task before Bible School teachers (that of teaching the love and understanding of Jesus) is often taken too lightly. TEACHERS—BE AWAKE!! This is an opportunity to demonstrate God's love for these children; and in the turbulent times in which we live, children need to experience this love!

As you begin to teach, remember that each face looking at you has its own unique personality and needs. He looks to you, and you are responsible, not only for what you say, but the way you say it and most important, how you live it!

TEACHERS—BE ALIVE!! Be alive with the Holy Spirit. In John 16:12-16, Jesus tells the disciples they would not immediately understand what he was saying, but the Holy Spirit would reveal the truth to them. Just like the disciples, we must also rely on the Holy Spirit to give us the truth to pass onto our children. Then we must be content, with faith believing, to plant the seed of truth and pray that, although children may not fully understand everything now, it will someday come to have meaning.

TEACHERS—BE PRAYERFUL!! Be in intercessary prayer for each child as he comes to you in whatever level of learning he has already achieved. Pray for other teachers and pray for your director. Conversely, directors be in prayer for your teachers and their guidance by the Holy Spirit.

Bible School—Bah Humbug???? Please reconsider. Bible School—Hallelujah!!

Mary Ellen Drushal

Moderator's Manna



If we are to be happy pilgrims, we will be Spirit-filled. But the Spirit-filled life can be perilous. Paul says, "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (I Cor. 10:12) We could say it this way—Let church members who think they are better than others take heed lest they stumble. Paul is concerned that some persons could be repelling instead of attracting people to Jesus Christ. As your Moderator, I want to share some seedlings for your personal reflection and stimulation.

Brethren have a great heritage and faith to live. The problem is that in living the filled life of faith and receiving the richest blessings of heaven individually and collectively, we may come to the point that we believe we are deserving of God's abundant favors. We may feel very complete, but God has no finished products living here on earth. Each of us is in the process of sanctification—none I know have yet arrived.

It is also true that God has no churches that have arrived. Neither the Brethren nor any other on the face of the earth. One problem with the seven churches in the Revelation was that they failed to face their true condition. They believed they had arrived. Most of our churches are far too slow to move into new programs and methods to reach their communities. I would not want to blame the laity or the clergy, but most of the time little or no communication is taking place in our churches. One blames the other and nothing is being done and we have not arrived. Therefore the challenge is to get into action, BRETHREN!!!

We often excuse ourselves by thinking we want to remain pure, so we won't mix with others and therefore be spiritual. This sort of attitude threatened the Early Church. They called it Gnosticism. The Gnostics were proud people. They were intellectually ahead of others. They believed they knew something no one else knew. They had light no one else had or was qualified to receive. That kind of pride destroys the openness of the believer's fellowship.

Some in our day are claiming to be Spirit-filled. They seek to impress people with their spiritually. They claim a gift no other person has. Thus they are the only ones who can possibly know the truth and lead God's people. They "snow" people with external symbols and routine rituals. Dr. Leavell said, "Genuine spiritual excellence is totally unselfconscious." That is to say, if you have it you don't have to flaunt it. Many don't have it, so they fake it. Where are you?

Have you ever met a person who is unteachable? Most of us have, but a growing Christian can learn from anyone. A christian would never say, "You can't teach me anything." If you know persons who would make that kind of a statement; you knnow persons who are completely enveloped in the work of Satan. We need to climb the mountain of understanding and act creatively in the wisdom of a loving God who gave us the Spirit to grow and to become each day the fulness of God's potential. How exciting and dynamic the church in the 20th century would be, if we would be hungry-hearted happy pilgrims.

We live in a spectator world. Throngs go out to baseball games, but they don't play. Multitudes go to the theater, but they do not sing or act. Crowds attend church, but they seldom become participants in the work of the Kingdom. As hungry-hearted happy pilgrims we must break thru the spectator world and become involved in the awesome task of planting, watering, cultivating the Word as God brings the increase.

Be open and growing as God's people and as God's Church. Brethren, we have a future and it is as lovely as God's power and promises. Let's grow hungry-hearted happy pilgrims! We have not arrived but we are **Going, Growing** and **Glowing** for Christ!

Paul D. Steiner
Moderator, The Brethren Church
Lanark, Illinois 61046

PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS

With the television news programs and the headlines in the newspapers all trumpeting the bad news of Watergate, one might well ask, "Where is the good news?" It seems that the whole of our society is bent on pointing out the shortcomings of mankind.

The Bible talks about kergyma. This is a Greek word which means proclaiming the good news. Ministerial Student Aid has to do with this question specifically. In the raucous clatter of voices in our society can one hear the word of the Lord? If one is to hear the word of the Lord, if any healing is to come to mankind, someone will need to proclaim the Gospel—the good news.

The inflation has caught up with the seminary and pre-seminary student and costs continue to rise. The large majority of seminary students are married. Their problem is to make a living for their families, often by means of a part-time job, and still pay approximately $900 in tuition for a year. The pre-seminary student is faced with a yearly cost of board and room and tuition of approximately $3,768 per year. It seems that these costs illustrate graphically how important your gifts to Ministerial Student Aid are. When we all share a little bit, the burden is made much lighter.

Several students have already inquired about the availability of financial aid for the next school year. My only answer can be, "God's people have been manifestly faithful." As chairman of the Ministerial Student Aid Committee, please let me express the deepest appreciation of the committee on behalf of Brethren pre-seminary and seminary students with whom you have shared. Please note the back page of the Evangelist where you will find some of the statistics concerning the giving of the Brethren Church for Ministerial Student Aid.

Virgil Meyer



"IN PURSUIT OF THE SHEEPSKIN, KEEP THE SHEPHERD IN SIGHT"

has been a guiding and motivating principle for many a pre-seminary and seminary student whose goal is the Christian ministry. One of the burdens that diverts personal "single-sightedness" in the scholastic pursuit of Brethren students at Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary is a financial one. And yet, one of the provisions the Lord has made for numerous faithful students in their pursuit is the Brethren Ministerial Student Aid Fund. Let me detail what I mean.

Sure, it's often quite difficult to admit to others that you need them and their help. Humiliation, when it comes to financial needs, is often where a student will give up sight of his goal. But, I would suggest that is one point at which the Lord can teach us some very valuable lessons. I learned a few of my own!

I think of a number of young men who are college students now, who are dependent on the Lord for this provision almost every semester. And then I can think of others who needed this financial support only as an initial boost, until the time that jobs were secured and their need was met in another way. I happened to need a small steady boost myself for a while, and was I glad to be able to have my need met this way. And then, I think of where the Lord has placed me, in campus ministry, as the result of my faithful "single-sightedness."

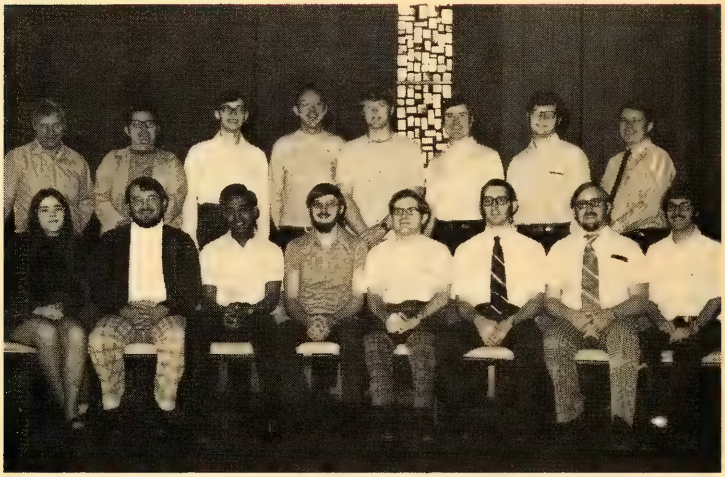
I am presently counseling with a Brethren young person who feels a definite call of God to the Christian ministry, but who needs financial reassurance before he can see the practical reality of an education for that ministry. I'm sure this is a sample fact-of-life for many young people who seek the Lord's will for their lives. I wonder if people like Rev. Larry Baker, Rev. Fred Finks, Bill Winter, Rev. Bill Walk, Rev. Dale RuLon, Rev. Jim Fields, Rev. Arden Gilmer, Rev. Don Rowser, to mention a few, ever felt that way. And I wonder if they would be where they are today if the Lord had not caused people to be aware of their needs.

I think we ought to face the fact that the commitment of these young men to you, the Church, is dependent upon a reciprocal commitment. These men not only need your help, but they deserve it in light of the kind of call they have received. As has been suggested, the Brethren Ministerial Student Aid Fund is a provision of the Lord in answer to many prayers. The challenge is, do you want to be involved in the Lord's work, in someone's personal need? I pray that students will never be found needing, with no hope for fulfillment in the eyes of the Brethren Church.

Rev. Jim Geaslen



Some Brethren Seminary students who have been greatly assisted through Ministerial Student Aid



Front row (left to right): Ruth Deardurff, Richard Boyd, Vijaya Kumar, Bob Young, Craig Brown, Randy Best, Earl Crissman, Steve Abe
Back row (left to right): Weston Ellis, Charles Long, Dale Stoffer, Gerald Peck, John Shultz, Kenneth Sullivan, Ralph Gibson, Steve Swihart
Those Brethren students not appearing: William Brady, Charles Wiltrout, and Ron Waters

MINISTERIAL STUDENT AID COMMITTEE

This is the committee that administers the Ministerial Student Aid Fund

(A committee of the National Ministerial Association)



Left to right: Dr. Joseph Shultz, Rev. Eugene Beekley, Rev. Virgil Meyer and Rev. Brad Weidenhamer

SEMINARY AND ME



by Gerald L. Peck

As I search the recesses of my memory my thoughts go back to about four years ago. I had announced to the world that I was going off to study for the ministry. Many people said, "We will be praying for you." I could not help but wonder if that meant they had no faith in me, and that only a miracle from God could make a minister out of this thirty year old sow's ear.

My time of reckoning with the truth was not long in coming. Contrary to the plans of my wife and myself, we set out from Nebraska for Ashland, Ohio without money enough to survive, without knowing what type housing was available, without a hope of a job, but with the prayers of our loved ones.

Upon our arrival in Ashland we were met by students that soon became our friends as we unloaded the truck. Little did we know how many friends we would be making during our stay here. We were welcomed into the Seminary community. The strange part of this acceptance was in the fact that I was not a student of the Seminary, but a lowly under-graduate with a four year college program to complete in order to get into the Seminary.

In a short time I acquired a good paying job for the summer months which turned into a part time job during school. Soon after that my wife found enployment. Those prayers must have still been going up on our behalf! That summer flew past and it was time to enter college. According to my transcript from High School I was being brazen to think I could do college level work—especially after being out of school for thirteen years. What had I gotten myself into?

If there is anything which a person can complain about at Ashland College it is not the speed with which they mail the invoices for tuition. One Thousand, One Hundred and Fifty One Dollars —my summer job was not that good! Praise the Lord, my home church came through with some help, but Ashland College doesn't offer terms on the bills. I had received a grant which helped, but I was still short. In talking with Rev. Meyer I learned about the National Ministerial Student Aid Fund. After talking with him my financial worries were over and I was free to devote my time to studying.

It is hard to believe that a four year program was completed in three and one half years, but here I am in Seminary—a dream come true and many prayers answered. I am not free from all care now, but I have been blessed beyond measure as I sit under men like Dr. Munson and Dr. Kickasola and fellowship with Dr. Shultz and Dr. Jerry Flora. Can you imagine taking communion and having Dr. Jerry Flora wash your feet, turn around and find that you are to wash the feet of Dr. Shultz.

In addition to the joy of knowing the men of the faculty and student body I am being challenged by the high academic standards set forth by the school. Only God knows what the next few years will bring, but of this one thing I am sure—if I am allowed to continue at the seminary—if I receive what I am taught—I will be equipped to go into the fulltime ministry and serve the Lord faithfully, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

One of my greatest lessons during the past four years is in the understanding of the comment from those people four years ago. When they said that they were going to pray for me it meant that they were going to support me both in their prayers and in their giving of money. For me, attending college and seminary has not been a continual "mountain top experience." I, like all students, am often down; but we are raised up by the knowledge that the people of the church are behind us. I have learned that without the help of God and His people my time would be wasted attending Ashland Theological Seminary. Your support is an investment in the future of the Church.

I am not a Prophet, so I cannot tell you what will become of this sow's ear. I am reminded of the Scripture which says, "And this is the confidence that **we** have in Him, that, if **we** ask any thing according to His will, He heareth **us**."



"I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in me through their word; THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE; even as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be in Us; THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT THOU DIDST SEND ME. And the glory which Thou has given Me I have given to them; that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them, and Thou in Me, THAT THEY MAY BE PERFECTED IN UNITY, that the world may know that thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me" (John 17:20-23, NAS).



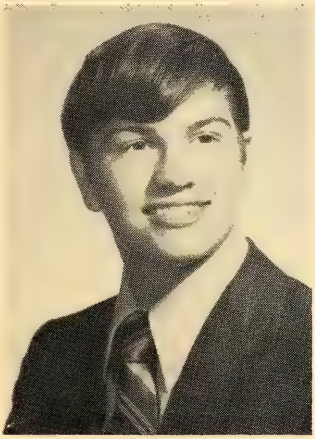
On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus Christ prayed that all His followers would be one in Him. He told His disciples that same night, *"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, NAS).*

His desire for His church is that we might be like a body, with all parts working together and functioning under the direction of the head—Jesus Christ Himself. Paul encouraged the believers at Ephesus to walk in love, *"being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:3-6).*

1974 SUMMER CRUSADERS — PART II



Bruce Ronk, Leader
Ashland (Park Street)



Tracy Wilt, Jr., Leader
Washington, D.C.

The ministry of ONE is to emphasize "the hope of our calling" in Christ and to encourage the love and the unity of the saints, that all men will know we are His disciples. Sixteen young people, serving on two units of eight each, will take part in this ministry in Brethren churches and camps in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Two very able and experienced young men will serve as leaders of the two units. **Bruce Ronk** is a third-year Crusader from Ashland, Ohio. In the fall Bruce will begin his senior year at Ashland College, majoring in religion and minoring in psychology and photography. His vocational objective is Christian ministry. **Tracy Wilt** is a second-year Crusader from the Washington, D.C., area. Tracy will be a junior music/drama major in the fall at Ashland College, with vocational interest in evangelism and/or music. Both men were members of **"THE TWELVE"** in 1973 and appeared with **"HIS"** (the winter musical ministry of the Board of Christian Education) during the past school year.

HEAR THE MUSICAL GROUP "ONE" . . .

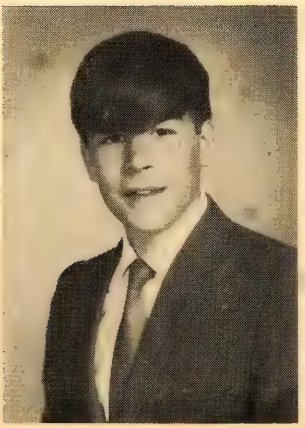


Mark Baker
North Manchester

Joining the program for the first time is **Mark Baker** from North Manchester, Indiana. With a ministerial objective, Mark will enter Ashland College in the fall as a sophomore English major. In high school he was part of a barbershop quartette that received a second-place rating in state competition.

Stephen Barber, another member of **"THE TWELVE"** in 1973, hails from the Chandon Brethren Church in Herndon, Virginia. Steve will be a junior religion business major at Ashland College, with interest in pulpit ministry. He is currently National BYC Treasurer, a member of **"HIS"** and part of the A.C. A Cappella Choir.

Entering Ashland College as a freshman, **Martha Deardurff** plans a drama music major. Martha has appeared in numerous high school musicals and plays, and has served as treasurer of National BYC and of Miami Valley District BYC. She is from Bellefontaine, Ohio, and the Gretna Church.



Steve Barber
Herndon (Chandon)



Martha Deardurff
Bellefontaine (Gretna)

SHARE IN THE STUDY OF THE WORD . . .

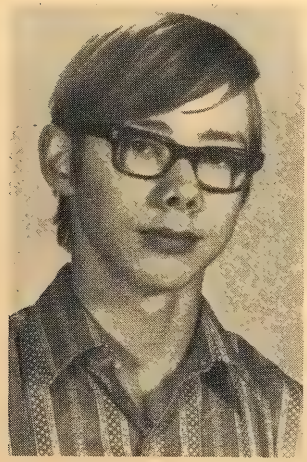
Robert Grumbling, vocalist and engineer for **"THE TWELVE,"** returns as primarily a vocalist in 1974. A member of Third Brethren Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Rob graduates from high school this spring and plans to further his education toward a career as an electronics and computer technician.

In addition to a fine background in vocal music, **Jeffrey Lentz** is very gifted as an instrumentalist. The son of a high school band director, Jeff has been in his school band for five years as a trumpeter and has appeared in band concerts four times. He will graduate from Northwood High School in 1975, and he comes from Nappanee, Indiana.

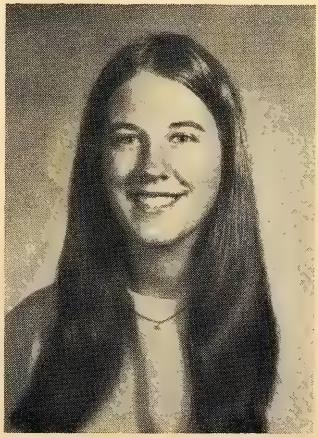
Joan McKinney is a second-year Crusader from Tucson, Arizona. Joan appeared as a soloist with **"THE TWELVE"** in 1973, and she travelled in the USA and Europe with "Up With People" for one year while she was in high school. She plans to enter Ashland College in the fall as a freshman.



Jeffrey Lentz
Nappanee



Robert Grumbling
Johnstown (III)

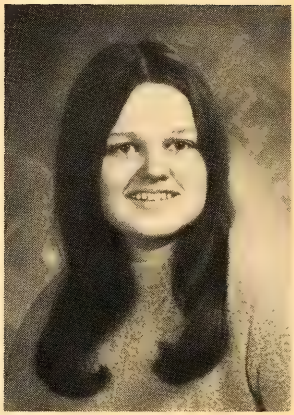


Joan McKinney
Tucson

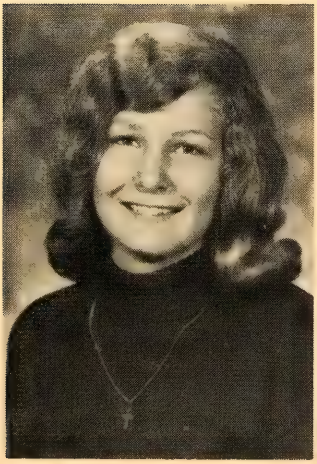
EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF



Linda Metzger
Vinco



Susan Michael
Gratis



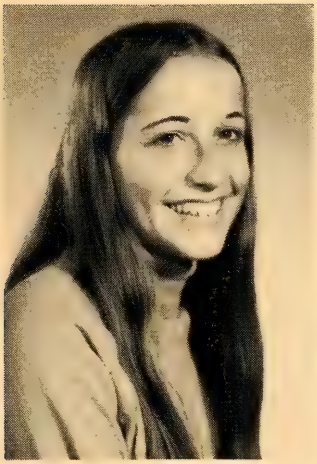
Debra Michael
Lanark

In addition to piano and organ, **Linda Metzge** (from Vinco, Pennsylvania) also plays trumpet trombone, baritone, and bass tuba. She has also sung in select ensembles in her high school and church, and has been in the county and district choruses. Linda graduates from high school this spring.

Debra Michael is completing her first year a Highland Community College with a major in business. She sang in her high school madriga for three years and was in contests four years She also plays the piano and clarinet. Debra comes from Lanark, Illinois.

Susan (no relation to Debra) **Michael** will ente Ashland College in the fall as a sophomore ele mentary education major (with a special educatio minor). From Gratis, Ohio, Susan will participate in the Crusader program for the second time, hav ing served with **"THE TWELVE"** in 1973. Othe musical experience includes four years of flute and church and high school choir.

BEING ONE IN CHRIST . . .



Nancy Ronk
Ashland (Park Street)



Kerry Scott
Warsaw

Nancy (sister to Bruce) **Ronk** is a "first-timer" from Ashland, Ohio. During the summer of 1973 she toured Europe with the American Youth Symphony and Chorus, singing and playing the viola. She also is a member of **"HIS."** Nancy will enter Goshen College in the fall with a vocational objective in nursing.

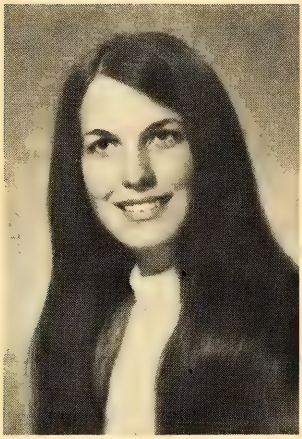
The seventh returning member of **"THE TWELVE"** is **Kerry Scott** from Warsaw, Indiana. During the winter Kerry was a member of the Indiana All-State Choir, and he declined an offer for a singing tour of Europe to be a part of one of the Crusader musical units this summer. He will enter Ashland College in the fall as a psychology major.

Formerly from Ohio and presently residing in Derby, Kansas, **Ben Solomon** represents the first Crusader to come from the Midwest District. Ben has sung in church and high school choirs and sang in a madrigal group. He will graduate from high school in 1975.



Benjamin Solomon
Derby

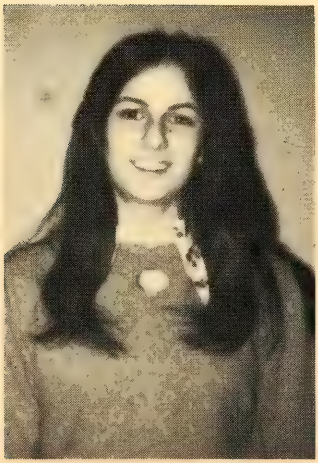
PRAY FOR THIS MINISTRY TODAY!



Sharon Stoffer
Canton (Trinity)

Sharon Stoffer will be a sophomore at Capital University in the fall where she is majoring in nursing. While in high school, Sharon sang in the Glenwood A Cappella Choir, one of the top high school choirs in the state of Ohio. From Canton, Ohio, she served on the Mission Action Team II last summer in the Central, Midwest, and Indiana districts.

Darlene Swenk is a resident of Ashland, Ohio, and a member of the Vandergrift Pleasant View Brethren Church. A first-year Crusader, Darlene appeared as a vocalist with the muscial group **"HIS"** during the past winter. She has also sung in school choirs. She will graduate in 1975.



Darlene Swenk
Vandergrift (Pleasant View)

The musical abilities cited will make each unit quite qualified to present **"A Celebration of Hope"** (a worship musical of creation, praise, salvation, and hope) and a concert of contemporary sacred music.

In addition to a rich musical background, each unit member has been active in leadership roles in the youth ministry of his or her local church. Utilizing these leadership abilities, each unit will conduct learning seminars and project activities for children in the fourth grade through adults and will join into fellowship with all in the churches and camps they visit.

Watch **Summer Crusader Update** for more details on the ministry of ONE. And be sure to meet and to share in the ministry of the unit that visits your community!

1974 SUMMER CRUSADER PROGRAM

Interns and Crusaders
(With Itineraries and Mailing Addresses)

Interns:

Paul Deardurff, Ken Hunn
June 22 - August 4
c/o Rev. Russell Gordon
607 65th Avenue, West
Bradenton, FL 33507

Joan Hamel
June 22 - August 4
c/o Rev. M. W. Dodds
Rural Route 4
Bryan, OH 43506

Wayne Grumbling
June 22 - August 4
c/o Rev. Arden Gilmer
P.O. Box 275
Vandergrift, PA 15690

Joyce Cole, Joan Weaver
June 22 - August 4
c/o Brethren Care
2000 Center Street
Ashland, OH 44805

Summer Bible Ministry Unit:
Bev Blough, Beth Gilmer, Joan Holsinger, Bonnie Radcliff
June 22 - August 4
c/o First Brethren Church
619 Park Street
Ashland, OH 44805

Camping/Educational Unit:
Pam North, Gene McConahy, Jim Miller, Robin Rentzel, Donna Shank
June 22 - July 6—c/o Rev. George Solomon, 730 N. Woodlawn, Derby, KS 67037
July 7-13—c/o Rev. Jim Cole, 503 Eastview Dr., Mulvane, KS 67110
July 14-19—c/o Camp Wyandotte, 11300 Leavenworth Rd., Piper, KS 66074
July 20 - August 4—c/o Camp Bethany, R.R. 1, Lakevile, OH 44638

ONE*—**Two Musical Units of Eight** (individual unit members to be named at orientation and announced through **Summer Crusader Update**): Bruce Ronk, Tracy Wilt, Mark Baker, Steve Barber, Martha Deardurff, Rob Grumbling, Jeff Lentz, Joan McKinney, Linda Metzger, Debra Michael, Susan Michael, Nancy Ronk, Kerry Scott, Ben Solomon, Sharon Stoffer, Darlene Swenk

	East	Midwest
June 23-25	Gratis, OH	Milledgeville, IL
June 26-28	New Lebanon, OH	Lanark, IL
June 30 - July 2	Dayton, OH	Brighton, IN
July 3-5	West Alexandria, OH	Camp Shipshewana, IN
July 7-9	Berlin, PA	Roann, IN
July 10-12	Vandergrift, PA	Warsaw, IN
July 14-16	Brush Valley, PA	Goshen, IN
July 17-19	Camp Peniel, PA	Kokomo, IN
July 21-23	Cameron, WV	Muncie, IN
July 24-26	N. Georgetown, OH	Oakville, IN
July 28-30	Canton, OH	Gretna, OH
July 31 - Aug. 2	Smithville, OH/Camp Bethany	Gretna, OH
Aug. 3-4	Ashland, OH	Ashland, OH

* - Send mail in care of local Brethren pastor or of camp.

August 5-12—DISCOVERY 74
All Crusaders and Interns
c/o Camp Bethany
R.R. 1
Lakeville, OH 44638

August 12-18—NATIONAL BYC CONVENTION
All Crusaders and Interns
c/o Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, OH 44805

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WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Pastor Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee

DROUGHT IN AFRICA SPREADS

Brethren World Relief funds are being used in well digging projects and in the distribution and stockpiling of grain for drought and famine stricken areas.

The drought in West Africa that has affected millions of people with starvation and death is continuing to spread. **Some new areas have not had any rainfall this year and people have sold their cattle and eaten next year's seed.**

Countries already affected by drought and famine are the Sudan, Ethiopia, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger and Chad. Now reports from Kenya, Algeria, Togo, Dahomey, Nigeria and Cameroun indicate the disaster belt is much wider.

The World Relief Commission is working with and through missionaries of the Evangelical and Interdenominational Foreign Missions Associations (EFMA and IFMA) to alleviate this need. (**Rev. Virgil Ingraham, Secretary of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, is secretary of EFMA this year**).

The relief and rehabilitation program of the World Relief Commission includes water development, self-help and agricultural projects in addition to an emergency feeding program.

Funds contributed by Christians in the U.S. (**such as Brethren Churches**) are being used in well-digging projects in several areas of Chad, Niger, and Upper Volta. The cost, depending on the soil and water table, may run from $50 to $250 per well. One well provides water for an entire village.

The World Relief Commission is also distributing and stockpiling grain all the way from central points to remote villages. Grain will become even more scarce and costly awaiting the next harvest in October—providing there is a harvest.

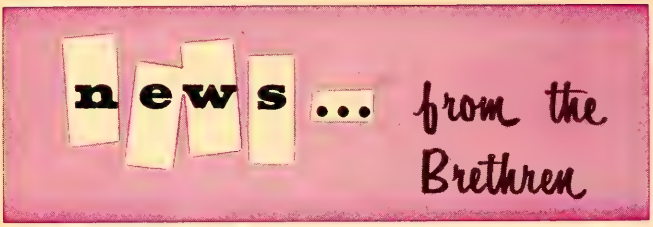
The line starts at the large door of the storeroom at left, goes through the trees to the grain storage bin in middle. These Christian relief workers, members of the national church, transport bags of grain on their bicycles to remote villages. World Relief Commission is purchasing, distributing, and stockpiling food to help the people survive. This fight for life is graphically shown in WRC's new sound/color movie, AFRICA: DRY EDGE OF DISASTER. (See release 788-A)



FAMINE FIGHTERS waiting for bags of grain at a distribution center in a sub-Sahara country.

A Sunday School teacher asked what a yoke was. One child replied: "It is a collar you put around an animal's neck." Then she asked, "And what is the yoke of Christ?" A four-year-old answered, "It is when Jesus puts His arms around your neck."

from Manchester Monthly



Memorials

CHAMBERS

Mr. Albert Chambers was called home to the Lord February 24, 1974. Albert was a deacon in the Cameron Brethren Church and a lifelong resident of Cameron, West Virginia. His wife Helen resides in Cameron. His soon David is also a resident of Cameron and another son Gary lives in Sandusky, Ohio. Albert's physical remains were buried in the Big Run cemetery outside Cameron. Memorial services were conducted by his pastor, Paul Richey.

* * *

STRAIT

Mrs. Orpha Strait went to be with the Lord on March 31, 1974. She had been a member of the Quiet Dell Brethren Church for many years and had recently moved into Cameron and attended the Cameron Brethren Church. She was preceded in death by her husband Walter. Two sons Paul and Nyle survive. Memorial services were conducted by Paul Richey and burial was in Halycon Hills Memorial Gardens near Sherrard, West Virginia.

* * *

LEHMAN

Buelah Lehman, 85, died April 26, 1974 at the Bryan Nursing Home, Bryan, Ohio. Memorial services were conducted Monday, April 29 at Greenisen Funeral Home with Rev. M. W. Dodds officiating. Burial was at Toledo Memorial Park Cemetery, Toledo, Ohio. Mrs. Lehman was a member of the First Brethren Church, Bryan, Ohio.

* * *

WOODS

Clela Woods died April 29, 1974 at the Parkview Nursing Home, Edgerton, Ohio. Memorial services were conducted May 3rd at the Oberlin Ford Funeral Home with Rev. M. W. Dodds officiating. Interment was at the Fountain Grove Cemetery, Bryan, Ohio. Mrs. Woods was a member of the First Brethren Church, Bryan, Ohio.

* * *

CASTEEL

Mrs. Cordilla Casteel, 77 passed away on March 31, 1974. She is survived by 3 sons, 9 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

Mrs. Casteel served the Lord in various ways in the Main Street Brethren Church of which she was a member.

The funeral service was conducted April 4 at the Konhaus Funeral Home, Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, with Rev. Joseph Hanna officiating. Interment was in the Union Cemetery, Meyersdale.

Weddings

PAYNE - SMITH

Marsha Payne daughter of Ethel Payne and the late Graydon Payne and Keith Smith son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Smith, all of Oak Hill, were married on Saturday, April 27, 1974. The ceremony took place at the First Brethren Church in Oak Hill, West Virginia, with the Rev. Bill Skeldon officiating. Following a short wedding trip the couple will reside in Bleckley, West Virginia.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. George Fitzwater celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November, 1973. They are members of the Mathias Brethren Church.

* * *

Rev. and Mrs. B. E. Waltz observed their 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 12th.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Clare Rudoloph observed their 50th Wedding Anniversary on March 27th.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Osborn observed their 51st Wedding Anniversary on April 15th.

Sarasota, Florida

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Simon McKenzie of Meyersdale, Pennsylvania celebrated their 61st Wedding Anniversary on Arpil 12.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Estep celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary April 21, 1974.

Oak Hill, West Virginia

* * *

A special recognition to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Brooks who celebrated their **Diamond Wedding Anniversary** April 28, 1974.

Oak Hill, West Virginia

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Washington, D.C. — 4 by baptism, 2 by letter
Sarasota, Florida — 5 by baptism



CHURCH NEWS

WATERLOO, IOWA

Special Recognition

Mrs. Ella Brown of LaPorte City, Iowa and a member of the First Brethren Church in Waterloo, Iowa celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth on April 23, 1974.

She was born on this date in 1874 in Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania and on February 24, 1896 was wed to Ervin C. Brown.

Her children are Lloyd E. and Carl A., both of Waterloo, and Mrs. Gerald Bedard. There are two deceased sons, Roy and Ray.

Mrs. Brown has 14 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

SOUTH BEND, INDIANA



One of the members of The First Brethren Church in South Bend, Indiana has a unique ministry to the church that has been administered for thirty-two years. Harold Haenes, A professional sign painter who owns his own sign shop has been hand lettering the signs shown in the photograph of the outdoor bulletin board of the church with attention gatherings quips and quotes.

He has graciously supplied your editor with many of these quotes and which may be found in the "Cheep-Advice" column of our magazine.

We would like to express our appreciation for these and honor him for unselfishly using his talents in the Lord's work for this phase of outreach in the community.

NORTH LIBERTY, INDIANA

The North Liberty Brethren Church has been experiencing some good things this spring. Each month we have been having special items of interest for all from outside the church.

In January we had Rev. Claude Stogsdill, the District Evangelist speak on the work of the Ministerial and Congregational Relations Board. Our Pastor, Stephen Cole, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Stogsdill and spoke to his congregation on "The Congregation and Working with your Pastor."

Our February interest was World Relief. We watched a film on their work in Cambodia and then had a question and answer time with their representative Mr. Pat Speicher of Milford, Indiana. It was a real challenge for us.

March brought Dorman Ronk who spoke on the work of the Benevolent Board, and plans for a nursing home in South Bend.

Our Easter Sunrise service was advertised as "the best in town" and it was. Thomas Halsey, a student at Huntington College, Huntington, Indiana, presented a sacred concert of hymns and songs of joy about the risen Christ. He sang to taped music while slides were being shown of the Biblical sites of the Passion from Israel. They were taken by Pastor Cole while in Israel last summer. We are still talking about the blessings received that day.

We also had George Kerlin come and talk with us about the Brethren effort in World Relief and also saw a filmstrip. We are already giving by Faith-Promise for World Relief and this helped to remind us of our promise.

Finally in May we have two emphasis: The W.M.S. had a Mother-Daughter tea with the Hueni Family of Mishawaka, Indiana providing the music. Over 80 attended and received a blessing.

Also this month, The Youth are having an all night party to celebrate Christ and have fun together. They are also celebrating a successful paper drive, with over 6000 lbs. collected—recycle old newspapers.

We praise God for all that has happened.

A Note Of Appreciation

We at Gratis, Ohio appreciate the work that Rev. Bill and Sharon Walk have done in their pastorate at Gratis. Our prayers go with them as they make preparation to prepare themselves for the mission field. During his work with us we have had an increase in membership and have added an educational unit to the church with very little indebtedness.

While our prayers go with them, we would appreciate your prayers also.

Secretary, Dorothy F. Brubaker

SISTERHOOD

YOU'RE UNIQUE

by Paula Tinkel



Did anyone ever tell you that you were unique? If so, did you take it as a compliment or a slam? If someone would have said that to me a few years ago, I probably would have thought that they were telling me I was weird. But you know something? I really am unique! And so are **you**! Do you want to find out why? O.K.

First of all let's find out what unique means. According to **Webster's** the definition of unique is "being the only one of its kind." You are one of a kind. God made you that way whether you like it or not. As God's child you occupy a special place in the Lord's great plan. He has given you certain gifts and abilities to be used in serving Him. Right now you are probably thinking to yourself, "Well, I can't sing, play the piano, talk in front of my classmates, or anything important. I'm just in grade school or junior high." Let's see what the Bible says about that.

Read I Corinthians 12:12-27. The apostle Paul compares our physical bodies to the body or church of Christ. You may think you have some pretty odd parts. But "God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important."[1] We have definite duties to perform as members of Christ's church. Whether it be singing in the junior choir, babysitting in the nursery, or just being friendly to the new girl in Sunday class, God has given us these abilities and talents. He warns us not to attempt to function as an "eye" when the Lord has made us a "hand." In other words, don't mimic the talents and abilities of others! Be happy about the various gifts and opportunities God has given you, and use them to make your own unique contribution to Christ's church, his body.

[1] Living Bible

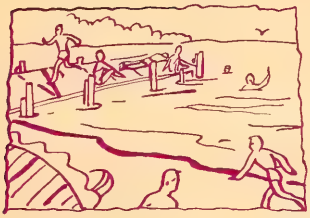
An ancient legend tells of a king who walked into his garden one day to find almost everything withered and dying. Speaking to an oak near the gate, he learned that it was sick of life because it was not tall and beautiful like the pine. The pine was upset, for it could not bear delicious fruit like the pear tree, while the pear tree complained that it did not have the lovely odor of the spruce; and so it went throughout the entire garden. Coming to a pansy, however, the king saw its bright face full of cheerfulness. "Well, little flower," said the monarch, "I'm glad to find at least one that is happy in this discouraging scene." "Your majesty, I know I'm of small account, but I decided you wanted a pansy when you planted me. If you had desired an oak or a pear tree, you would have put one in my place. Therefore I've determined to be the best little flower I can be!"[2]

You have a unique place in God's plan—make the most of it! What special talents and abilities has the Lord given you? Are you happy with what you have? Are you using those talents? Answer these questions and think about what you are doing for the Lord as a UNIQUE person.

[2] **Our Daily Bread,** April 1974.

Paula Tinkel

Shipshewana Retreat



SUMMER CAMP

CANOE CAMP

June 16-21, 1974 — $33.00
(Limit of 18 prepaid High Schoolers)
Open to both boys and girls

SUMMER CAMP

Sr. High Camp	June 23-29, 1974	$30.00
Jr. High Camp	June 30 - July 6, 1974	$30.00
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Junior Camp	July 14-20, 1974	$30.00

COLLEGE AND POST HIGH RETREAT

August 2, 7:30 p.m. thru August 4, 5:00 p.m. — $14.00

GOLDEN AGE RETREAT

August 27, 3:30 p.m. thru August 29, 12:00 noon — per day

FAMILY CAMP

August 30 - September 2 — per day

(USE CAR POOLS TO COME TO CAMP)

For information write to:

Jack Oxenrider, Coordinator
Route No. 2, Box 73
Shipshewana, Indiana 46565

Ashland Theological Seminary
310 Center
Ashland, Ohio 44805

MINISTERIAL STUDENT AID FUND

$16,000 needed for Ministerial Student Aid

Your sacrificial giving is needed . . .

. . . To spread the preaching of the Gospel

. . . To assist a growing number of ministerial students

. . . To meet the rising cost of education

Twenty-seven Ministerial Students
Received Financial Aid in the Past Year

Average assistance per student:

1969-70	$369.90
1970-71	473.23
1971-72	482.50
1972-73	542.00
1973-74	540.19

Seventy Brethren churches made contributions to the Ministerial Student Aid Fund in the past year.

Costs of education continue to rise. Tuition, fees, board and room will average $3,768 per year for the pre-seminary student.

Tuition and fees for the seminary student will amount to approximately $900—with living costs in addition to this.

Your gift to the Ministerial Student Aid Fund helps these men remain in school, and after training to be a part of the Gospel ministry.

Send your offerings to:

MINISTERIAL STUDENT AID FUND
c/o Rev. Brad Weidenhamer
631 Buena Vista
Ashland, Ohio 44805

The Brethren
EVANGELIST

Ashland Theological Library
Ashland, Ohio

Know Your Brethren Churches



First Brethren Church

Pleasant Hill, Ohio

Vol. XCVI June 29, 1974 No. 13

The Brethren EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

The First Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill, Ohio will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the founding of their church on July 18th. We wish to add our congratulations to the many others and express our delight in presenting the history of this congregation in the center pages of this issue as a Know Your Brethren Churches feature.

Recently there was an article included with the "THE PASTOR'S HELPER newsletter from the Hagerstown Brethren Church entitled THE CHRISTIANS by Wendell E. Kent.

It seems that there is too much said in this day and age about Christians from a negative view point and it was refreshing to see something on the positive side for a change.

We are happy to share this article with our readers and thank Mr. Kent for his kind permission to reprint the article in our church organ as a guest editorial. (Editor's note)

Results of balloting on the Memorial on Baptism

Response by congregations:

Yes—84, No—27, Tie—3 (No vote or no response from 4)

Those congregations voting "Yes" represented 71% of all congregations or 75% of those congregations voting decisively.

Response by actual vote:

Yes—2,716, No—1,526, Total—4,242 which is 64% Yes and 36% No.

Tally Committee:
Rev. Glenn Grumbling, Chm
Mrs. Pauline Winfield
Mr. James Payne

NEW BOOKS

While It Is Day, by Elton Trueblood. An autobiography. Harper & Row. 170 pages. $595.

Where He Leads, by Dale Evans Rogers. A sharing of the author's pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Revell. 126 pages. $3.95.

Hide Or Seek, by James Dobson. An approach to self-esteem for children for parents and teachers. Revell. 159 pages. $4.95.

By the Way

THE CHRISTIANS

by Wendell E. Kent

This pastor thinks it is time to speak up for the Christians as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on earth.

Many in Africa, South America, and the Orient were lifted out of the darkness of paganism by Christians who poured millions of dollars and sacrificed hundreds of lives of dedicated missionaries who never asked anything in return except the satisfaction of knowing they had rescued some from an eternal hell.

When civilization was in danger of collapse in the dark ages, it was the church in spite of its faults that gave hope, encouraged a better way, supported the arts, promoted human decency and dignity, and kept the light of the gospel burning. Yet often the church's reward is to be ridiculed and slandered and downgraded.

I know, I'm a Christian. I've heard it.

When distant places open their borders, usually it is Christian missionaries who are the first to enter, bringing both spiritual help and material sustenance. They do it quietly. You hear much more about the Peace Corps and Care and Project Hope, but if you travel into the back country of a thousand unheralded parts of this world, you will find there a representative of Jesus Christ doing a job for the Master. Sometimes, the churches that send these ambassadors are struggling with problems at home. Who rushes in to help? Nobody.

I'd like to see just one of those critics of the church that is gloating over the problems and the decline of attendance and the erosion of faith match what the gospel of Jesus Christ has accomplished in its 2000 years of existence.

Come on. let's hear it.

Does any other religion in the world have a Saviour to equal the Lord Jesus Christ? You talk about Hinduism and you get fatalism and a caste system that makes some people forever untouchable. You talk about Buddhism and you get a vague, mysterious, round of ceremonies and meditations. You talk about Confuscianism and you get a lot of ethical lessons but no salvation and no hope for the future. You talk about the ancient religions of primitive cultures and you get fear and superstition and death.

You talk about Christianity, though, and you get a message of hope and joy and forgiveness. You talk about Jesus Christ and you find an answer to the basic yearning of man's soul for peace and meaning to life. You talk about the Bible and find a book that remains year after year on the best-seller lists.

You can talk about scandals and Christians are not exempt from these. They are the first to admit that no one is immune to temptation, and anyone can stumble in his daily walk. But let's be fair about the matter. It is not among Christians that the divorce rate is most alarming. It is not among Christians that the drug problem is most common. It is not among Christians that crime and drunkenness and tax evasion and all the other evils of our society find their most fertile breeding ground.

When churches are struggling to pay their bills, and keep up the program they feel is important, who steps in to help them meet their budgets and send their missionaries and build their lovely sanctuaries that add so much to our communities? They ask no outside help and they get none. They dig deep into their own pockets and ask God to supply their needs and thank Him in advance for what He will do.

I can name you hundreds of local congregations which are quietly racing to the help of spiritual needs around the world. They humbly seek to obey the commission of their Master to go into all the world and teach the gospel. Can you think of any cause more worthy of our support and admiration than that?

Though some may be predicting the death of the church and some are apparently eager to see it happen, rest assured that the church will emerge from this age of history as the one institution against which the gates of hell itself cannot prevail. Let the prophets of gloom remember this, when society crumbles under the weight of its own excesses of permissiveness, corruption, and violence, the church might be entitled to turn its back upon those who once spurned its message. But it won't. It will still be there, offering salvation, pointing the way, healing the wounds.

I hope America will not be among those who add their voices to the chorus that would praise the rise of secularism and atheism, while the church, under God, marches on without her help under the banner of the cross.

MISSIONARY NEWS

OPERATION ANDREW

By Kenneth L. Solomon



HE (ANDREW) FIRST FINDETH HIS OWN BROTHER SIMON, . . . AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO JESUS JOHN 1:40b, 41a.

HE (ALFONSO) FIRST FINDETH HIS FRIEND GUSTAVO, . . . AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO THE MISSIONARY AND THE BIBLE STUDY.

HE (GUSTAVO) FIRST FINDETH **HIS** FRIEND FERNANDO, . . . AND **HE** ALSO BROUGHT HIM TO THE BIBLE STUDY IN THE MISSIONARY'S HOME.

HE (FERNANDO) FIRST FINDETH **HIS** FRIEND GUSTAVO TENA, . . . AND HE BROUGHT HIM TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO **HIS** MANY DOUBTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATTERS.

And thus history is repeating itself in the beginning of this missionary's ministry here in Medellin, Colombia, and my joy must be similar to that experienced by our blessed Lord as the first two who made contact with him went immediately to bring others.

In our experience here these are **non**-Christians doing (without being told or exhorted to do so) what many ministers of God (including this reporter) have, many times unsuccessfully, tried to persuade Christians to do. We sense their response (unspoken, of course) to be quite similar to that of Cain "AM **I** MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?" And the answer of the Lord God should stir up all indifferent, non-witnessing Brethren to "be up and about their Father's business" of "First finding their own brother and bringing him to Jesus" and then someone elses' brother for whom **we** are also responsible. Oh, that none of those reading these lines shall ever have to hear the words of condemnation from the lips of God, as did Cain, "The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground." (Gen. 4:10)

In this respect may we also **listen** and **apply** the words of the Lord as first spoken to Ezekiel, but as now applying to each and every born-again follower of the Christ. "So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman . . . when I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall lie in his iniquity; but **his blood** will I require at **thine** hand." To show that this is also applicable to New Testament times and to this "age of grace" we find Paul declaring: "Wherefore I take you (the elders of Ephesus) to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God . . . I have shewed you all things, how I kept back **nothing** that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, **testifying** both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ . . . how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" For **this** reason Paul could say: "**I** am pure from the blood of **all** men." **CAN YOU? CAN I?**

And in the light of Rev. 1:6 and I Peter 2:5 where we are told that we all (ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS) have been made "priests unto God," we dare not slough off our responsibility by saying "But Paul was giving this charge to the **elders** of Ephesus!" The "Priesthood of **all believers**" reveals that we **all** share **this** responsibility and have it in common. **GOD FORBID THAT WE BE DISOBEDIENT TO THIS HEAVENLY VISION!**

4H Events at Krypton

As early as January of this year there were 35 young people in the 4H Choir preparing for the second annual choir performance. At this time they have presented "It Is Cool in the Furnace" twice and have three more presentations.

Under the direction of Margaret Lowery the 4-H sewing program enrolled 50 students in sewing, crocheting and knitting projects. At the beginning of the year one of the 4-H girls had been selected as one of the most outstanding in the State of Kentucky with an awarding taking place in March. This Spring Margaret reports 22 champions in the 4-H County event.

4-H Sewing includes both boys and girls in classes of instruction and accomplishment. Pattern selection is most important. From a large current pattern book they study and decide what is best for their project, get pattern that meets individual measurements and standards of project, study pattern for all requirements for making garment and then proceed to get required materials. All is done to increase the knowledge and appreciation preparing and caring for their clothing. They work with the latest patterns, materials and techniques.

May 21 the 4-H students were parading and displaying in an area event and July is the State Style show. Through the years many champions have been trained in Margaret Lowery's classes.



Fifth Year Vests demonstration



4-H Fourth year play outfits

YOUR LAST CHANCE

We are publishing below for the last time, the coupon for you to register for the special **LAYMEN ALIVE** training program to be held Tuesday through Saturday of General Conference for three hours each afternoon. All persons over fifteen years old are eligible to enroll for this training. Read the article **OPERATION ANDREW** elsewhere in this issue written by missionary Kenneth L. Solomon and then fill in the registration below and mail it with your check **IMMEDIATELY.** Registration is **LIMITED** to the first sixty applications received.

Mr., Mrs., Miss _____

Street or R.F.D. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Church _____ Age: 15-25___ 26-40___ over 40___

Enclosed is my check for $5.00 (made out to LAYMEN ALIVE) to cover registration and all materials for the Laymen Alive training at General Conference August 13-17, 1974. I commit myself to participate in the entire training from 1:30 to 4:30 P.M. on each of these five days as the Lord enables so that I might be better equipped to serve Him.

signed

This form and your check or money order should be mailed before July 26, 1974 to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

NEW METHOD OF ASSISTANCE TO KENTUCKY

The Missionary Board of The Brethren Church in cooperation with the National Woman's Missionary Society has suggested a new plan for receiving and distributing clothing and miscellaneous items to Kentucky. This program has been an important asset to the home mission outreach, for hundreds of people benefit from the items which are sent. The clothing project has grown to such proportions that the process must be broken apart. Often the phrase is used "to multiply, one must divide." Such is this case. By dividing the denomination into collection areas, the involvement will be multiplied.

This is how our proposed plan will work. Churches in a given area will be grouped, one will be designated as the collection center. Items can be brought to the Center on a given date, loaded and sent. Each area of churches is responsible for organizing its own plan, and informing those in the area of the date for collecting, transporting and for sharing costs. The opportunity to be the Collection Center can shift. Packing in plastic trash bags is preferred to cartons. Everything MUST BE CLEAN, not necessarily pressed.

The advantages are obvious: cooperation among the churches in each area, laymen involved in transporting will visit the home mission points, see the work at first-hand and perhaps work on a necessary project; more materials will be received because more churches in a smaller area are aware of the opportunity to help; storage and man-hours at the Mission Board office will be used in other important areas.

Churches is distant districts are encouraged to find needy areas nearby where they can send their articles. Transportation costs rule out the value of sending things a great distance.

The churches in each area have been grouped because they are relatively close together. However, this is only a suggestion. Some churches have their own method; we do not want to disturb any established plan. The asterisk indicates the church where the Woman's Missionary Society will be responsible for initiating the first plan for collecting and distributing.

CENTRAL
- *Lanark
- Milledgeville
- Cerro Gordo
- *Waterloo
- Cedar Falls
- Udell

OHIO
- *Pleasant Hill
- Williamstown
- Gretna
- Fremont
- *Newark
- Columbus
- Glenford
- *Louisville
- Akron
- Canton
- Massillon
- North Georgetown
- *New Lebanon
- Dayton
- West Alexandria
- Gratis
- *Park St. - Ashland
- Garber - Ashland
- Mansfield
- Smithville

INDIANA
- *North Liberty
- Teegarden
- South Bend
- Mishawaka
- Ardmore
- Winding Waters
- *North Manchester
- College Corner
- Wabash
- Huntington
- Roanoke
- Fort Wayne
- Bryan
- *Loree
- Peru
- Kokomo
- Flora
- Burlington
- *Tiosa
- Roann
- Corinth
- Denver
- *Goshen
- Jefferson
- New Paris
- Nappanee
- *Brighton Chapel
- Matteson
- Shipshewana
- *Warsaw
- Milford
- Dutchtown
- *Muncie
- Marion
- Oakville

PENNSYLVANIA
- *Brush Valley
- Pleasant View
- Pittsburgh
- *Vinco
- Johnstown I, II, III
- Conemaugh
- *Sergeantsville
- Levittown
- Calvary
- *Berlin
- Jones Mills
- Raystown
- Meyersdale
- Wayne Heights
- *Cameron
- Quiet Dell
- Highland
- Masontown
- White Dale

SOUTHEAST
- *Bethlehem
- Mt. Olive
- St. Luke
- Liberty
- Maurertown
- Kimsey Run
- Mathias
- *St. James
- Cumberland
- Hagerstown
- Linwood
- *Chandon
- Washington
- Mt.Olivet
- *Oak Hill
- Gatewood

These guidelines will help in collecting items:

1. Clothing for all ages, need not be sorted, have all belts attached to garment.
2. Bedding and household articles
3. Quilt scraps
4. Fabrics, mill ends, etc.
5. Literature for DVBS and Camp for small children through intermediate age level: Sunday School papers and workbooks, clean and unused; pictures; crafts.
6. Books for lending library — good Christian fiction—no heavy reading material.
7. For VBS, Camp and Rallies
 a. foil plates and TV trays
 b. plastic ware (knives, forks, spoons, etc.)
 c. cheese and oleo cartons
 d. Christmas and greeting cards (all addresses and messages removed)
8. Shoes—at least C width
9. Socks—roll pair together

Do not send:
1. Narrow shoes with high heels
2. High School and College textbooks
3. S. S. quarterlies, Evangelists, Decision Magazines, Christian Digest or Reader, etc.
4. Outdated patterns—all 4H'ers have to use current patterns and techniques.

If you have questions, solve them by using your own good judgment (every situation will be different), or write to the Missionary Board office for clarification. The Special Ministries Commission of the Missionary Board and the Woman's Missionary Society representatives are anxious to help this benevolent part of your program. Together we realize the importance of sharing our unneeded with those who need. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



Schedule of "Northern" LEARNING CENTER WORKSHOPS Led by Brethren House Staff

The KEY WORDS describing Brethren House WORKSHOPS are:

—Involvement
—Experiencing
—Moving Around
—Experimenting
—Relaxing

The emphasis is on "learning by doing," with a limited amount of sitting and listening.

The place of each Workshop will be set up as a Learning Center with lots of tape recorders, tapes, crafts, records, filmstrips, kits, books, games, etc. You may choose those areas of special interest to you and examine the materials at your own speed. Bonnie, Jean and Phil will be present to answer questions and guide our working together in learning.

Each Workshop consists of two sessions—each 2½ hours in length. (Those with the second session on Saturday morning may extend to early afternoon, if the participants desire). **Those attending the Workshops should plan to attend both sessions,** for both are a part of one unit of training. The first gives an introduction and opportunity to experience the "atmosphere" of a Learning Center. The second builds on that experience and delves into the details of organizing and developing materials for an effective Learning Center.

Following is a listing of the location of each AREA WORKSHOP. Brethren are invited to attend any of the Workshops they can get to.

GOSHEN, INDIANA
July 26 (Friday) at 7:00 p.m.
July 27 (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m.
First Brethren Church
215 W. Clinton Street
Contact: Rev. Spencer Gentle

PERU. INDIANA—
July 28 (Sunday) at 7:00 p.m.
July 29 (Monday) at 7:00 p.m.
First Brethren Church
135 E. Main at Clay Street
Contact: Rev. Kenneth Howard

BRYAN, OHIO—
July 30 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m.
July 31 (Wednesday) at 7:00 p.m.
First Brethren Church
Junction of County Roads C and 13
(Near Rts. 2, 6 and 15 south of Bryan)
Contact: Rev. Myron Dodds (Rt. 4, Bryan)

ELKHART, INDIANA—
August 2 (Friday) at 7:00 p.m.
August 3 (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m.
Winding Waters Brethren Church
111 W. Midlake Road
Contact: Rev. Fred Finks

LOUISVILLE, OHIO—
August 5 (Monday) at 7:00 p.m.
August 6 (Tuesday) at 7:00 p.m.
First Brethren Church
1101 E. Main Street
Contact: Rev. Charles Lowmaster

CANTON, OHIO—
August 7 (Wednesday) at 7:00 p.m.
August 8 (Thursday) at 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Brethren Church
455 55th Street, N.W.
Contact: Rev. John Byler

SMITHVILLE, OHIO—
August 9 (Friday) at 7:00 p.m.
August 10 (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m.
Smithville Brethren Church
193 E. Main Street
Contact: Rev. Larry Bolinger

GREETINGS FROM ARGENTINA

Dear Brethren,

It has been a long time since we have written a general letter to all of you, and many wonderful things have been happening in our work here. Therefore, decided it was time to share a bit with all of you.

Since the Logans left Argentina in December, we have been very busy. The week before Christmas the Nunez Church sponsored a tent campaign on a vacant lot just a couple blocks from the church. We had nightly meetings for ten nights, with various speakers and special musical groups. At the same time, a Vacation Bible School was held every morning for the children. I helped the teachers with handcrafts in the morning and played the accordion along with Adriana Rivero's guitar for the congregational singing each evening. Bill, of course, helped out with sound equipment and lighting.

In January, we took a short vacation including a week at Camp Diquecito in Cordoba. This was a week of family camp, with all ages included. Pastor Tomas Mulder was the camp dean and we had 91 campers. The adults were led by Pastor Ray Aspinall in a study of Ephesians 4. The youth shared a great deal with a guest, Pastor Pachalian and were inspired greatly by him. Several of the women, including Marilyn Aspinall and myself took turns leading the children's meetings. A wonderful time of fellowship was had by all and there were no signs of the famous "generation gap."

Before returning home, we spent a weekend with the Jorge Puch family in order to visit the Cordoba Church.

We were home about a month before leaving again for Soldini for the annual Spiritual Conference, February 23-26. There were about 250 registered plus those who came in for just a few hours or a day. The fellowship and sharing were wonderful. Again, the age groups were divided so that everyone present benefitted from the conference. A group from Child Evangelism led the children's meetings and I helped them with the nursery-aged children during the daytime sessions, but was free to attend the evening sessions and help out with the music. And then, of course, we all had our turns at serving the tables, cleaning the kitchen and washing the "ollas" (pots and pans).

Following this conference, we went home with Pastor and Mrs. Robert Marchesse to Victoria in the province of Entre Rios and spent two blessing-filled days with them. This family lives in a very humble, but beautifully kept home and they work with some of the poorest, financially speaking, of our Argentine Brethren. This pastor assists in the work of three annexes besides the main church beside his home. He is a truly dedicated man, and his people are rich in the things of God, although they lack many material goods. Their faces glow with the love God has given them.

Since we arrived home on March 4, we have been extra busy. We began a choir here in our local church about the middle of March and began preparing an Easter program. We put together a group of 12 hymns with scripture readings interspersed to tell the story of Christ's last days on earth—from Palm Sunday through the giving of the Great Commission. We had 14 voices besides Bill, who directed, and I, who played the organ. We held 3 practices a week and performed our program both Saturday and Sunday nights of Holy Week. Following the program, the majority voted to continue the choir, so we are now preparing music for our Sunday evening worship services. We praise the Lord for this show of interest in beautifying the services.

About the same time we started the choir, we also began a contest in our Sunday School, which averages about 40-45 regular attenders. The children received points for attendance, arriving on time, bringing visitors, saying their memory verses and for good conduct. The piano was decorated with a net, seashells and a treasure box which we asked the adults to help fill with a special offering according to the number of points that the children earned. The contest closed the last Sunday of April—and now, the happy surprise! The Nunez Sunday School wishes to present $50.00 to the Missionary Board to help with the founding of the new work in Colombia, to be used as needed, for literature, equipment or whatever need is most urgent. A prize was also awarded to the winner in each class and we are enclosing a photo of the winners—

Nursery—Heidi Winter
Beginners—Claudia Sardell and Todd Winter
Primary—Oscar Cubilla
Juniors—Patricia Rivero
Intermediate—Gladys Alberti

And so, you see, we again praise God because his followers here in Argentina are also looking out beyond themselves to the needs of the Colombian people and in this manner are following Christ's command in Matthew 28:19 and Acts 1:8.

These are the highlights of our work so far this year. The Nunez Church has also started an annex in a suburb about 10 miles from here. We go there every Sunday afternoon at 5:30, arriving back in Nunez just in time for our evening service here. At present, we are averaging 15-20 in attendance in this new work.



Nunez S.S. winner—Gladys Alberti, Patricia Rivero, Oscar Cubilla, Tod Winter, Claudia Sardella, and Heidi Winter

We thank you for your continued prayer support and your personal letters. We ask your patience as you await answers. I try to answer each letter personally and sometimes it takes awhile to get to them, but we appreciate each and every one and think of you all often. We are looking forward to meeting a number of you when we come home on furlough.

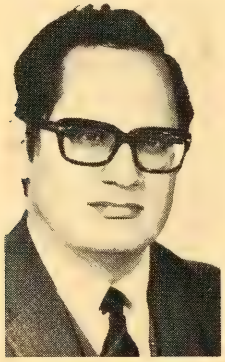
Your co-worker in Christ,
Sharon Winter



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Evangelism which ignores the social situation of the people for whom it is intended is less than effective because it is less than biblical. Writers from Argentina, England, Peru and the United States make this assertion in the final group of position papers going to the 2,700 participants in the forthcoming International Congress on World Evangelization.

Authors of the four study documents appeal to the evangelical leaders meeting here in July to rediscover the evangelistic approaches of the first century Christian church.



Rene Padilla

"In the light of the biblical teaching there is no place for an 'otherworldliness' that does not result in the Christian's commitment to his neighbour, rooted in the Gospel," writes Rene Padilla of Buenos Aires, in a paper entitled, "Evangelization and the World." He is associate general secretary for Latin America of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students.

Padilla declares, "According to the New Testament, Jesus Christ is not the saviour of a sect, but rather 'the saviour of the world.' The world is the object of God's love. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." The Latin American student worker appeals for recovery of what he describes as "repentance ethics" as a part of evangelism. He notes, "This call to repentance throws into relief the social dimension of the Gospel. It comes to man enslaved by sin in a specific social situation, not to a 'sinner' in the abstract."

Both the extreme of a secular theology that aims for an earthly Utopia and the extreme of a concept of salvation that speaks only of preparation of the soul for the hereafter are rejected by Padilla. While denying the universalism of some contemporary theologians who claim that all men are saved, he urges a universal call to faith that permeates all of life.



Samuel Escobar

Another South American, Samuel Escobar, warns evangelicals against reducing the Gospel or mutilating it "to eliminate any demands for the fruit of repentance and any aspect that would make it unpalatable to a nominally Christian society."

Escobar, a native of Peru, is currently working in Canada as the general secretary of that nation's Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. His congress paper is entitled, "Evangelization and Man's Search for Freedom, Justice and Fulfillment."

"Not only does the message of the Gospel have a transforming content," the Peruvian writes, "a study of the Bible shows that it also has a context. The people who hear the Gospel have certain expectations, hopes and needs for which Christ provides the answer. The message 'makes sense' as it touches deep-seated needs which are felt in a different way in every person."

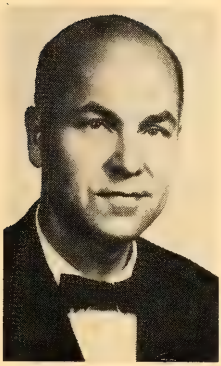
Early Christians steadfastly refused to change the message in order to get a better hearing or more quantitative results, Escobar notes. He cautions the contemporary church to be equally faithful.

"Once and for all," the Inter-Varsity executive declares, "we should get rid of the false notion that concern for the social implications of the Gospel and the social dimensions of witnessing comes from false doctrine or lack of evangelical conviction. Contrariwise, it is concern for the integrity of the Gospel that motivates us to stress its social dimension."

Both the early church and some 20th century believers in the non-Western world can teach a lesson on evangelism to Western evangelicals, according to another congress speaker.



Michael Green



Ralph D. Winter

"Certainly a Western Christian such as myself can only hang his head in shame when comparing our own approach to evangelism with that of the early Christian, and with that of contemporary Christians in many developing countries," writes Michael Green, principal of St. John's College, Nottingham, England. His paper's title is "Methods and Strategy in the Evangelism of the Early Church."

Because of its priority on evangelism, the early church succeeded, Green contends. "The modern church fails," the English clergyman and professor argues, "because 'missionary' has become a dirty word. These early Christians were all involved in the mission; and they were deeply involved in their communities as well. We read of doctors, teachers, agriculturists and others in normal jobs really caring for the communities in which they worked. Several times we have the accounts of the way in which Christians tended victims in a plague at the risk of their own lives; and the love and self-sacrifice of Christians for their townsfolk even in the face of fierce opposition and martyrdom won grudging praise from the pagans."

Green asks if modern believers are as ready to give up home comforts "for the sake of the good news." Members of the primitive church were characterized by a mobility and spontaneous witness that enabled them to spread the word of Christ through all the known world, he notes.

The fourth paper, written by Professor Ralph D. Winter of Fuller Seminary, Pasadena, California, asserts that many thousands of contemporary Christians must leave their homes if the world is to be evangelized. "The Highest Priority: Cross-Cultural Evangelism" is the document's title.

Winter challenges the conclusion of some church bodies that traditional missionary strategy should be abandoned because there are now some Christians in every nation of the earth. While agreeing that the best and most effective evangelistic work is done by local Christians in each country, he claims there are millions who will never hear the name of Jesus Christ if they must wait to hear from the very few believers in their own nations.

Preliminary congress studies have revealed, Winter reports, that four out of five non-Christians in the world today are beyond the reach of any evangelistic effort by near neighbours who are Christians. He laments the fact that "most Christians have only a very foggy idea of just how many peoples there are in the world" among whom there are no primary Christian witnesses with their own cultural backgrounds.

The American seminary professor and former missionary to Guatemala also calls for evangelicals to make a clear distinction between "nations" and "peoples" in their thinking and planning. He says that Christ's Great Commission, when properly translated, speaks of making disciples of all peoples, not countries.

Winter warns against "people blindness" which would cause evangelization efforts to overlook certain cultural groups within nations. A proper reading of Christ's command, he claims, "does not let us off the hook once we have a church in every country—God wants a strong church in every people!"

Even in such supposedly evangelized nations as the United States, there are many population subgroups that have not heard of the possibility of salvation in Christ, he suggests.

"Present day American Christians can wait forever in their cosy, middle class pews for the world to come to Christ and join them," Winter writes. "But unless they adopt (appropriate) methods and both go out after these people and help them found their own churches, evangelism in America will face, and is already facing, steadily diminishing returns.

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

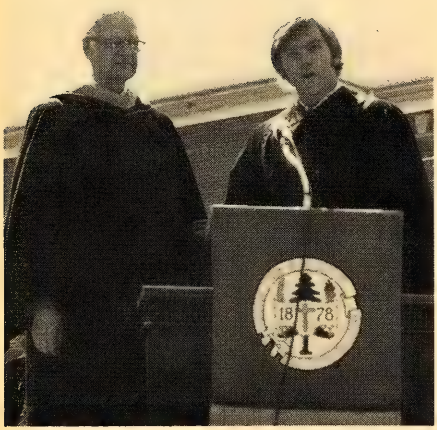


Photo by Bruce Ronk

(left) Myron S. Kem, president emeritus of the Ashland College Board of Trustees and Martin Duff, president of Student Senate at Ashland College

ASHLAND, Ohio, May 21—Myron S. Kem of 1336 Ridgeview Ave., Dayton, received special recognition from faculty and students of Ashland College at commencement activities Sunday (May 19) on the campus green.

Mr. Kem, president emeritus of the Ashland College Board of Trustees, was recognized in a resolution from the Faculty Senate presented by Dr. William Meredith, Senate president, and a certificate of commendation from Martin Duff, president of Student Senate. Both groups honored the Ohio State University alumnus for his outstanding service to the college as president of the AC Board of Trustees for 27 years.

Mr. Kem, who will continue as a member of the AC board, received the Outstanding Alumni Award of the Ashland College Alumni Association in 1960 for his unusual loyalty and devotion to Ashland College. He attended AC before transferring to Ohio State.

Retired from his position as treasurer of Raymond Bag Co. of Middletown, Mr. Kem has been active in civic affairs in Dayton including the Executive Club, Y.M.C.A, Kiwanis, Masons and Shrine. His professional affiliations have included American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Controllers Institute of America, National Association of Accountants, Cincinnati Association of Credit Men and Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He is a past president of the Institute of International Auditors, past secretary of the National Association of Accountants, past president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, vice president of the City Mission, past Trustee of Dayton YMCA and Trustee of College Hill Hospital. Mr. Kem is a member of the Dayton Hillcrest Brethren Church and the Miami Valley Golf Club.

He and his wife, Bernice, are the parents of one son, Dr. Richard Kem of Denver.

ASHLAND, Ohio, May 11—When Ashland College graduated the largest class in its history at the 95th annual Commencement May 19, Dr. Glenn L. Clayton, AC president, conferred 566 baccalaureate degrees and 14 associate in arts certificates. Dr. Ernest J. Kozma, vice president for academic affairs, and Leslie O. Woodburn, registrar, presented the candidates for baccalaureate degrees.

Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, vice president of the Ashland Theological Seminary, presented candidates for 23 degrees, including 16 master of divinity degrees and 7 master of divinity degrees with a major in pastoral psychology and counseling.

Ashland College conferred six baccalaureate degrees. The following degrees were awarded this year: 111 bachelor of arts, 288 bachelor of science in education, 101 bachelor of science in business administration, 49 bachelor of science, 12 bachelor of music and 5 bachelor of fine arts.

"Freedom of Choice—Legacy for Survival" was the subject of the commencement address by K. Robert Hahn, executive vice president of Lear Siegler, Inc. of Santa Monica, Calif. Elton E. Whitted, president of the AC Board of Trustees, gave the charge to the candidates.



BRETHREN GRADUATES

Ashland College & Ashland Theological Seminary 1974

Seminary:

Vijaya Kumar Kadmiel		Rajahmundry, India
Kenneth L. Sullivan		Ashland, Ohio

College:

Ronald M. Blake	North Georgetown	Homeworth, Ohio
Richard P. Craver	Pittsburgh	Ashland, Ohio
John Paul Deardurff	Gretna	Bellefontaine, Ohio
Elizabeth Gilbert	Pleasant Hill	Pleasant Hill, Ohio
Joan Ruth Hamel	Sarasota	Sarasota, Florida
Julie Ann Meyer	Park Street	Ashland, Ohio
Gerald L. Peck	Falls City	Falls City, Nebraska
Gloria Stout Radcliff	Flora	Flora, Indiana
Michael L. Radcliff	Milford	Syracuse, Indiana
Michael Rogers	Park Street	Ashland, Ohio
Patricia L. Smith	Park Street	Ashland, Ohio
Randy Smith	Jefferson	Goshen, Indiana

ASHLAND, Ohio, NOON, May 20—Key principles of the free enterprise system which have made our country great are in grave jeopardy, corporate executive K. Robert Hahn told Ashland College's largest graduating class in history at commencement Sunday.

The executive vice president and director of Lear Siegler, Inc. of Santa Monica, Calif., said the principles are freedom of choice, incentive and payment for achievement and excellence of performance.

He cited the increasing proportion of the nation's resources allocated to government agencies and tax-supported institutions. "Government tax-supported services now account for over 32 per cent of our total economy, or $407 billion in annual expenditures, and employ over 14 million people —one out of every six in the total labor market."

Tax-supported institutions do not offer an option to the taxpayer; choice is gone; incentives are missing and return on investment is not considered, he said.

The speaker noted "the disturbing factor in the trend toward increased governmental appropriations is that far more new job opportunities are increasing in the public service sector than in the private sector." With over two million young people entering the job market this year, Hahn said, it will be easy to measure the productivity of the worker and the resources allocated thereto in the private sector. However not only is it difficult too measure productivity of government workers but no method has been established for measuring return on investment or priority in allocation of assets to public institutions.

The competitive profit system best satisfies the utilization of our nation's resources to meet the needs and wants of customers, the former AC board of trustees member continued.

Hahn exploded various myths often leveled at the free enterprise system including the statements that "government creates jobs" and that "the system is faulty because it is not well planned."

Government distributes jobs but the money for these jobs comes from the taxpayers, he noted. "Government planning cannot duplicate the simple procedure of people having freedom of choice to

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plan their lives at the very point and at the very time they spend their money."

He noted that every country that has deviated, however slightly, from the requirements of a economic system in an open and free society has gone backward from the best that is needed in human destiny, human dignity and the growth of man's civilized society. "Our task is to reverse the present trends in the United States including the establishment of goals and objectives and accountability for performance and measurement of results at all levels of government and public institutions."

"It is also our task," the speaker said, "to insure that the government performs only those services and activities which cannot be performed by competitive enterprise."

Hahn compared the growth and rates and development of two major communications services —one public and one private—during the life-time of the college graduates, citing the considerable advantages of increased technology, lower rates and increased productivity in the private company.

"Our concern for government encroachment in new fields is clearly evidenced by the drum beats from Washington urging that new federal corporations be established for oil, electric utilities, urban transportation, housing, health care and education. Is it possible," he asked, "that after all the past financial disasters and ineffective performance by government operations that there is any valid reason for spending taxpayers money without competition for the yardstick of profit performance to measure return on the resources allocated?"

He said competition is the link puting the producer in touch with the consumer and a premium on satisfying consumer requirements; it is profit which rewards a good job and provides the opportunity to go forward to create new products, invent new processes, invest in new machines and create more jobs making this the most productive nation in the history of mankind.

Hahn encouraged the graduates, the thought leaders of tomorrow, to think through the basic concepts with respect to those factors which have made our nation great as a producing nation.

He encouraged truth, excellence and achievement and concluded "if you have the wit to comprehend, the lamp of experience will provide you with the light to guide your direction and efforts to preserve our competitive system and freedom of choice—our legacy for survival."

Hahn is a member of the Ashland College President's Advisory Council. He received his law degree from Cornell University.

More than 600 students were recognized at commencement at which Dr. Glenn L. Clayton, president, conferred 566 baccalaureate degrees, 14 associate in arts certificates, and 23 master of divinity degrees.

Curtis W. Wilson directed the Ashland College Symphonic Band which played for the prelude and academic processional for the 95th commencement.

The invocation and benediction were given by Rev. J. Ray Klingensmith, chairman of the department of religion.

The Ashland College choir, directed by Calvin Y. Rogers, chairman of the division of communicative arts, sang a three-part Motet by Johannes Brahms.

The charge to the candidates for degrees was presented by Elton E. Whitted, president of the AC Board of Trustees.

Candidates for Theological degrees were presented by Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, vice president of the seminary. Dr. Ernest Kozma, vice president for academic affairs, and Leslie O. Woodburn, registrar, presented the candidates for baccalaureate degrees.

Marine Corps commissions were bestowed by Capt. J. A. Gangloff. Christopher W. Warner, president of the senior class, presented the gift of the class of 1974.

Special recognition was awarded by the faculty and Student Senate to two retiring board of trustee officers, Myron Kem, who served as president 27 years and Harvey Amstutz, who was secretary for 36 years. Both men will continue as members of the board.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

The Park St. Brethren Church Choir will present the worship musical "ALLELUIA" on Sunday morning, August 18th at the 10:30 A.M. General Conference worship service.

We are inviting any persons who are attending Conference to sing with us if you are interested. Rehearsals will be held on **Tuesday, 5:45-6:30 P.M., Wednesday at 9:00 P.M.** and **Saturday 4:00-5:00 P.M.**

If you would like to sing with us and can attend the rehearsals, send a post card to:

Rev. Brad Weidenhamer
631 Buena Vista
Ashland, Ohio 44805

and indicate your interest in singing. I will send you a copy of the music so that you might familiarize yourself with it. The musical was written by the Gaithers and Ron Huff. We think you will find it a meaningful experience to sing.

PLEASANT HILL BRETHREN CELEBRATE 100th BIRTHDAY



On July 18, The First Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill, Ohio will celebrate its 100th year of continuous service to this community.

The history of the local Brethren Church dates back to about 1815 when members of that group originally called the German Baptist migrated into western Miami County, bringing with them a faith built solely upon the teachings of the New Testament.

The leaders of this group lost no time in putting into practice, in the local community, the teachings so dear and near to their heart. Meetings were first held in homes with movable walls, some still remain today, so as to provide a larger room than used for normal living. So powerful was the testimonies of these devout Brethren, that the homes soon were not of sufficient size to house the congregation and it was necessary to construct a building, called 'The Meeting House,' to be used for the express purpose of worship. About 1840 the first meeting house, a log structure 30 feet by 40 feet, was built about ½ mile north of Newton, as Pleasant Hill was then known.

The congregation continued to prosper and soon expanded to the point that a new and larger meeting house was required. In 1849 a new stone house 40 feet by 80 feet was built at Sugar Grove a mile or so to the north-west. So rapidly did the congregation grow in and around Newton (Pleasant Hill) that it was decided to build a new brick meeting house in Newton. This meeting house was built in 1856 on the site occupied by the old church of the Brethren building, now the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith.

Upon completion of the new brick house in Newton the winter of 1856, the church at once proceeded to organize a Sunday school which was the first Sunday school in the state, and it is generally conceded that the Sunday school organized in Newton (Pleasant Hill) was the first Sunday school organized in all the great west by the Brethren.



During the latter 1850's and 1860's, unrest was encountered within the church, and our local body had its beginning when several members of the church withdrew from the Newton Church. On July 18, 1874, twenty persons assembled at the home of Elias Teeter, south of Sugar Grove on what is now the Owens road, which is northwest of Pleasant Hill, to form an independent Church. Starting with this nucleus, the church has grown to a membership of well over two hundred today.



During the Council meeting of October 10,1874, it was agreed to rent the Baptist meeting house in Covington with privileges of holding meetings there anytime, except on the fourth Sunday of each month. The rent to be paid was $10.00 for six months. Wood for fire and oil for the lights to be furnished by the renter. It was agreed to hold meetings every four weeks beginning November 8, 1874.

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Although the new congregation did not adopt the name "The Congregational Church" until the Council meeting of January 3, 1876, they saw the need for some organization to transact the business of the church. During the Council meeting of March 6, 1875, the first trustees. Michael Deeter, David Minie, and William Mikesell were appointed. March 9, 1875, the first two Deacons were elected, the church choosing Elias Teeter and Daniel E. Deeter. The Deacons were ordained by the laying on of hands according to the apostolic practice. Elders John Flory and John Cadwallader officiated.

It did not take this little band of people long to realize that if they were to carry forth the gospel within the local community that they had great need of a meeting house of their own instead of renting a place to worship outside the local area. Realizing the potential in the area and the need for the proper facility to spread forth the Gospel from, the congregation, at the Council meeting of April 17, 1875, instructed the trustees to purchase the lot in Pleasant Hill, where the present church stands. This purchase was made April 28, 1875. At the same meeting it was decided to construct a meeting house on the said lot. The House was to face Walnut Street (North) and was to be 36 feet wide, 50 feet deep (long) and 16 feet from floor to ceiling. Their were to be two front doors (north) and one rear door. The doors, each to be approximately 36 inches wide. The rostrum was to be 16 inches high. The building was to have a belfry and the roof was to be self supporting. Aaron Heft was appointed to superintend the work of building.



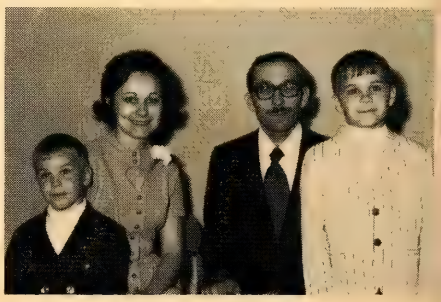
Although several changes have been made, the original building still is in sound condition and is still in use as the main Sanctuary, where "The Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible" is preached twice each Sunday and on Wednesday night.

Elder John Cadwallader had charge of the church from its conception in 1874 until July 24, 1876. However, the time had come when it was felt that assistance was needed, so on January 3, 1876 a Council meeting was held to elect the first two Elders. The congregation elected Elias Teeter and Jacob Crumrine. They were duly ordained by the laying on of hands by the presiding Elder John Cadwallader with Elder John Flory assisting.

The Church continued to have its growing pains, but always looking to the Master for guidance, the difficulties were overcome for the most part. On October 27, 1879, a Council meeting was called and the rules for church government were revised. All Elders were suspended as officiating elders. At the meeting of June 5, 1880, it was decided that only one Elder would be called at a time and for a period of one year. The call was to be by a majority of ⅔ vote of the congregation. Elder Elias Teeter was given the call, and thus the first change in church government of the new congregation had taken place.

Late in the year 1876 the new congregation called themselves "The Congregational Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill, Ohio." Recognizing the need for closer union with other Congregational Brethren Churches in different parts of the country, the local congregation held a Council meeting July 8, 1876, to consider the propriety of holding a conference to form such a union. It was agreed that such a conference was needed and it was decided to hold the conference at Pleasant Hill, Miami County, Ohio. There is no record of such a conference being held, and the local church continued to operate independently until 1883 when the Progressive Brethren, who had withdrawn in 1881 from the original Brethren, held a convention in Dayton, Ohio for the purpose of reorganization and adopted the name "The Brethren Church." The Pleasant Hill Church consolidated with the new denomination and became known as "The Progressive Brethren Church" and retained that name until 1920, when the name was changed to "The First Brethren Church."

November 1, 1886 the membership numbered about seventy. Today the membership totals well over two hundred and continues to grow under the capable leadership of Pastor Gene A. Eckerley.



Pastor and Family

The Eckerleys
Judy, Gene, Jared and Tim

In 1903, under the ministry of Elder J. T. Watson, the church was remodeled. The entrance was moved to the east side and a vestibule and belfry were added. In 1912, under the ministry of Elder Charles Ashman, eight Sunday school rooms were added to the east side, and improvements were made to the interior of the building during the following years.



In November, 1950 during the ministry of Elder Floyd Sibert, an addition was dedicated which provided five Sunday school rooms, a dining hall and kitchen. This addition was to the west side of the sanctuary.



Under the ministry of Elder William Anderson, The sanctuary was bricked in. The educational unit was begun in 1959 under the pastorate of Elder Anderson and completed and dedicated in 1960 under the ministry of Pastor Carl Barber.



During the fall and winter of 1973, under the spiritual guidance of Pastor Gene A. Eckerley, the addition of a new vestibule to the south of the sanctuary was completed. The old belfry was removed and the old vestibule was converted into additional class rooms.

On April 24, 1939 a deed was executed by the trustees conveying the property from the Congregational Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill to The First Brethren Church of Pleasant Hill, Ohio. In 1958, articles of incorporation were applied for and the proper conveyances executed to vest the title to all properties of the Church in the Corporate title "The First Brethren Church, Inc.", Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

Although the church has continued to grow throughout the years, the influence of our church cannot be measured by the numbers on the membership records. Many have heard the Gospel message from our faithful pastors and teachers and have gone into other communities. May the success of our church continue to be noted by the affect its members has upon those about them in the community in which they live. May our church continue her ministry always for the Glory of God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Centennial Committee

CHURCH OFFICERS



Row 1—Left to Right—David White, Janice Hocher, Jan Gilbert, Ben Carey, Virgil Schauer, Rouland Deeter.

Row 2—Left to Right—John Johnston, Shirley Ryder, Mary Landis, Don Deeter, Lee Mendenhall, Cecil Jackson, Lee Carey.



Row 1—Left to Right—George Shellenberger, Betty Jean Shellenberger, Paul Shellenberger, Ruth Carey, Ada Oburn, Cordy Jackson, Winifred Deeter.

Row 2—Left to Right—Earl Ferguson, Eugene Oburn, Russell Wolfe, Joe Deeter, Harold Oburn, Maxine Delcamp.

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THE CHURCH YESTERDAY AND TODAY

The Pleasant Hill Brethren have always been insterested in missions. In recent years this has been shown by their involvement in many missionary projects. In 1953 the congregation, under the leadership of Pastor Floyd Sibert, sent out a missionary couple, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Snell, to serve as Missionaries in Mexico with the Air Mail From God Mission. In the fall of 1969 the church started a Faith Promise for Missions program which has grown each year. A Missionary Conference is held each year and faith promises for missions are made. This year 1974 in spite of a local building program the Faith Promises for Missions has gone over $8,000.

The church has a graded Sunday School, teaching the Bible to everyone age 2 through Adults. The Sunday School is divided into five departments Nursery, Primary, Junior, Youth, and Adults. The Adult department is on an elective system whereby each quarter each student may elect which Bible class he would like to be in according to his interests and needs. The Sunday School enrollment today averages roughly 50 in the Primary Department, 20 in the Junior Department, 30 in the Youth Department, and 60 in the Adult Department. There is also a Cradle Roll Department with 10 enrolled. There are also week day classes for children and youth. Every Friday afternoon the church has a Children's Story Time Program for children age 3 through grade 3. The community has responded to this program to the extent that the attendance averages over 80 and has reached over 100. The Children's Story Time was started as an extension of Vacation Bible School; its program is like Bible School only it meets one day each week during the school months. Each June a 10 Day Vacation Bible School is held and has grown to over 150 students attending. For youth there is a week day Girls For Christ group and a Boy's For Christ group that meets once a week and averages around 20 in each group. B.Y.C. meets regularly each Sunday evening and averages around 15 in attendance.

The church maintains a regular Sunday Evening Service and Mid-Week Service. Evangelistic Revival Services are held each fall and special weekend Bible Conferences and Training Conferences are held from time to time. In 1972 a Campus Crusade Lay Institute For Evangelism was held and sponsored by the Pleasant Hill Brethren Church. Over 250 enrolled and shared in the personal evangelism training.

In addition to the above programs the church has two W.M.S. groups that meet regularly. Ladies Home Bible Study groups and Coffee Teas have been held with great response in the community.

The Pleasant Hill Brethren Church is a growing church, growing spiritually, numerically and enthusiastically. The church is growing because the Pleasant Hill Brethren are a people with a vision and a mind to work.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

The Pleasant Hill Church has been very fortunate, from her conception in 1874 to the present day, in having as leaders men with a vision, men who knew the scriptures and were fluent speakers and whose preaching had a drawing power, men who were not afraid to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and promote the work wherever they had the opportunity.

In the early days, the guidance of the church was the responsibility of the presiding Elder. The presiding Elder was assisted by one or more Elders. The Elders were elected for life.

From the start of the Pleasant Hill Church in July 1874 until 1878, Elder John Cadwallader was the presiding officer. In 1878, Brother Cadwallader was replaced by Elder Elias A. Teeter who held that office until 1880 when a change was made in the church government. Both of these Elders were assisted by other Elders amongst which were Jacob Crumrine, Michael Deeter, and H. G. Ullery.

In 1880 the church government was changed to discontinue the presiding Elder called for life and replace him with an Elder called on a yearly basis and to act only in a spiritual capacity. This method of calling a pastor, with minor exceptions, is still practiced today. The pastors that have served the Pleasant Hill Church since 1880 are as follows:

1880	Elias A. Teeter
1885	Edward S. Miller
1888	Edward Mason
1890	——— Kilnhefner
1893	——— Cober
1897	William Summers
1898	——— Baughman
1899	W. S. White
1903	Jesse Watson
1906	C. Shock
1907	H. M. Harley
1909	Charles Ashman
1914	Garvin Smith
1915	George S. Baer
1917	Charles Pierce
1918	Walter Barnhart
1920	Sylvester Lowman
1923	Robert F. Porte
1925	H. C. Marlin
1933	Roy Macher
1933	Samuel J. Adams
1943	Floyd Sibert
1954	William H. Anderson
1960	Carl L. Barber
1964	Cecil Bolton
1968	Gene A. Eckerley

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR JULY

SOME THOUGHTS ON LABOR

The word "labor" occurs dozens of times in the Bible, for part of God's plan for people is that they should work; so much so, that He says if they will not work, neither should they eat! (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

The Bible also says: "In all labor there is profit but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury" (or poverty) Proverbs 14:23.

If God's words were obeyed, the following glowing words would describe world-wide conditions. "Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; happy shalt thou be and it shall be well with thee" (Psalm 128:1, 2).

But Satan and sin entered the perfect earthly paradise which was given to man to dress and to keep (Genesis 2:15).

Ever since our first parents sold out to Satan, the peaceful scene has been changed, and it is not uncommon now to hear and read of "sweat, tears, and blood."

Strange as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that there is one precious thing which the Lord will not permit us to labor for. We cannot earn salvation by our works!

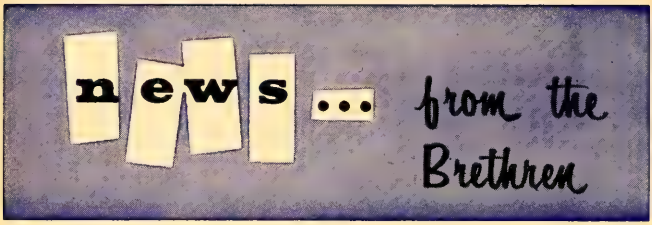
Ever since God's beloved Son cried "It is finished" (John 19:30), and died for our sins on the Cross, and rose for our justification, salvation is "not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

The Lord's own words are: ". . . believe and be saved" (Luke 8:12). And again: ". . . whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:15).

In Romans 3:24 we read: "Being justified freely by His grace." In Romans 4:5 the message is: "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

In Titus 3:5 we read: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us." It becomes us to listen to the Savior's gracious invitation. He said: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). In Romans 10:10 it is written: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness."

Once a person is saved, he is called upon to be "zealous of good works" and to "be careful to maintain good works" (Titus 2:14; 3:8). Then, in the coming day, each believer "shall receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Corinthians 3:8).



Weddings

DUDLEY - WOOD

On Saturday, April 13, 1974 Miss Janet Dudley and Dr. William Dewey Wood were united in marriage at the First Christian Church, Wadsworth, Ohio. Rev. Philip Gould, pastor, officiated at the double-ring ceremony assisted by Rev. David Cooksey.

The bride is a member of the Wadsworth Christian Church, a graduate of Ashland College and has been employed on the staff of Congressman Charles Mosher of Ohio. Dr. Wood is a member of the Washington, D.C. Brethren Church and the great grandson of two well-known pioneers in the Brethren denomination, the late Rev. William M. Lyon and the late Rev. John W. Porte.

The couple will make their home at Lewisburg, Pa. where Dr. Wood is a Public Health Dental Officer.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Armor celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary Friday, May 10th.
Pleasant View Brethren Church

* * *

Fred and Esther Jenkins celebrated their 51st Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday, May 14th.
Pleasant View Brethren Church

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Orr Meyers celebrated their 61st Wedding Anniversary on April 8th.
North Manchester, Indiana

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Garber Wright celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 15th.
North Manchester, Indiana

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Lisher celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 18th.
Ardmore Brethren Church

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. John Warren's 60th Wedding Anniversary was March 2, 1974.
Ardmore Brethren Church

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. George Focht's 50th Wedding Anniversary was May 1, 1974.
Gratis, Ohio

Memorials

BEEGHLY

Memorial services were conducted for Wilbert Allen Beeghly, 90, Ashland, Ohio, May 15, 1974. Wilbert was an active, faithful member and worker in the Park St. Brethren Church of Ashland. He served as Church School Superintendent, Choir member and Deacon for many years. He was a good Christian friend of many people of the Ashland area, where he worked for the Gilbert Furniture Company. Interment was Ashland Cemetery with Rev. George Sheets and Rev. Eugene Beekley officiating.

* * *

BUNDY

Mrs. Iva M. Bundy passed away May 18th at the Wabash County Hospital where she had been seriously ill for one week. She is survived by a daughter, Ellen and a sister Mrs. Grace Van Ness, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Her husband and a son preceded her in death.

She served in the North Manchester First Brethren Church as a faithful and dedicated worker in the Junior department of the Sunday School for 53 years as well as a faithful member of the Choir. Special recognition was given her on Mother's Day.

Services were conducted in the church Sanctuary on May 21st by the Pastor, Rev. Woodrow Immel.

* * *

FREY

Mrs. Bernice Frey passed away very suddenly April 1st in Teague, Texas, where she was vacationing with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haecker, her daughter and son-in-law. She is survived by another daughter Mrs. Esther Strake, and five grandchildren.

Memorial service was conducted in the church sanctuary on April 5th by the pastor, Rev. Woodrow Immel.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

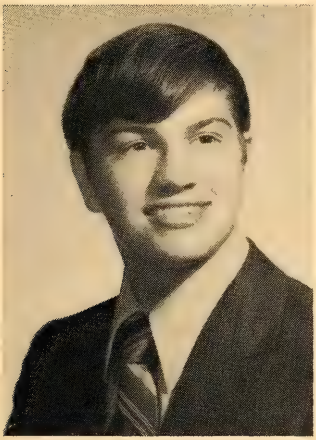
Elkhart, Indiana —
11 by baptism
8 by reaffirmation
5 by letter

Ardmore, South Bend, Indiana—
3 new members

CHURCH NEWS

PRAISE THE LORD!

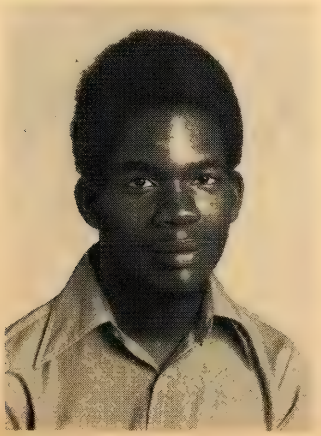
(Washington Brethren Calls Young Men to Ministry)



A continuing trend in Washington, in addition to calling men to testify concerning Watergate, is calling men to the Gospel Ministry. **TRACY WILT, Jr.,** now a sophomore at Ashland College, and a Crusader Leader, was called last year to the ministry.



This year **LARRY TYNER,** was called to the Gospel Ministry. Larry is presently working for the Christian Aid Mission, but plans to enroll in Ashland College and Seminary.



Just recently a Senior High black boy was received into the church. His name is **EARL "BUDDY" SHEPHERD.** In commenting on his name, 'Shepherd,' he stated he would some day like to lead God's Flock. This is an answer to prayer for the Washington Brethren Church and the denomination. If we are to minister effectively to the Blacks we must have Black leadership. Pray for the calling of more young men to His Ministry.

Rev. R. L. Keplinger, Pastor



SUMMER PLUS

By Ruth Deardurff

What are the Brethren Youth doing in the summer? Are they doing anything worthwhile for God, for themselves, for their families, for their church, or their community? Or are they like other young people who have nothing to do during their three month vacation from school or college?

Many youth spend the summer working, camping, or just loafing. Many Brethren youth, including myself, have spent several exciting summers working with and meeting people through the Summer Crusader Program. It is initiated and sponsored by the Board of Christian Education. Each year teams of Brethren youth have been sent out to work in camps and churches: VBS, visitation programs, youth rallies, learning centers, and etc. Does this sound like a dull summer? Here's one Summer Crusader who did not spend dull summers!

Back in 1970, a friend of mine was a Crusader on one of the first teams sent out by the BCE. Only eight began the pilot program, one team to the western churches and the other to the eastern churches. The youth heard about their summer experiences at General Conference. What a summer! They could serve God in the churches and communities throughout the USA plus have memorable experiences and relationships which would effect their lives. I was "turned on" to the program through them, but how could I go? I was a junior in college trying to finance my way through, plus cram all the required courses in before graduation. How? In April of 1971, God provided the way for me to be a Crusader by working the courses. Guess where I was headed? Florida! During orientation at Camp Bethany, twelve Crusaders became a close knit unit as three teams prepared for their individual summer programs. As we left on our separate adventures we wondered what God had in store. One team went to South Bend, Indiana, to work in the inner city. One team was doing multi-media programs, using Evangelism Explosion for outreach, and working in churches as far east as Washington, D.C. and as far west as Iowa. Our team went to St. Petersburg, Florida, to help Rev. Phil Lersch and his wife with some program called a "learning center." What's that? We found out in a hurry that it is an open space classroom with a variety of activities which the children choose from to learn the story. Becky Bachtel, Donna Enright, and I plus Bonnie Munson, who joined the team, worked together in the planning, initiating, and evaluating the program. What an experience! Becky and I, being education majors, gained a lot of applicable knowledge for teaching. Also, I became attached to those children because they yearned for love. As one little girl told us she came to Brethren House because she felt someone cared. I counseled with a fifteen year old boy who had a bad home life and problems as he helped us with the children. We had time to travel, to go sightseeing, to swim, and to visit the Sarasota church. During the summer, our team developed a strong intimate relationship. We spent hours studying and discussing God and the Bible which helped us to grow spiritually.

The summer passed quickly, and then the team was split for a brief period. Donna and I flew to Cleveland where we were met and driven to Camp Bethany for two weeks of camp. Here we would be counselors for senior highs and Friendly Town Camp. During senior high camp, the teams formed a close community in which they felt free to share God, thoughts, and ideas. One evening we shared in a candle-light service at the lake, followed by communion. I saw several teens turn to Christ and rededicate their lives with tears streaming down their faces. I had advised, counseled, worked alongside and fellowshipped with them all week. What a touching experience in their lives and mine. Then, to have them call me "big sis" and cry as they left, gave me reason to think this stage of the program was worthwhile. The following week, we had twenty inner city children from Cleveland for camp. They were a loud, boisterous bunch who complained a great deal and tried my patience. As the week drew to a close, I found that I had become attached to this wild, love starved crew. The climax of this beautiful inspirational summer was General Conference as we became involved with the Brethren youth who attended. On Wednesday evening of Conference, I stood with the other Crusaders as we were introduced and shared some of our summer experiences through slides, songs, poems, and talks with the entire Conference. One team presented "Camelot Revisited" which was to be followed with the benediction. Rev. Carl Barber did not give a benediction, but asked the people to stand and to join hands as we sang "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love." As we encircled the huge sanctuary of the chapel, everyone sensed the bond of the Holy Spirit and love present. When we were quietly dismissed, the Crusaders realized this was the final co-effort of our summer work. After the service, we took part in a youth march, which went through Ashland, singing praises to God and handing out tracts.

The summer of 1972 was also filled with excitement. Eighteen of us attended "Explo 72" and also prepared for our summer work. I had the oppor-

tunity again to work in St. Pete, but now I was captain with more responsibilities. By this time, I had graduated from college with a degree in elementary education. Wendy Kring and I tried to reachout to the youth as well as the children in the neighborhood and found the task interesting. As a whole the summer proved to be challenging and exciting.

Then last summer, thirty youth (ages 16-22) were engaged in another busy nine weeks. At the closing service of orientation, we were sent out in God's care and service. This was only the beginning of another action-packed summer. The five teams were scattered throughout the denomination helping in camps and churches plus nursing homes. One team "the Twelve" would be traveling and presenting two musicals: "It's Getting Late" and "Come Together."

With a packed car, our team headed for Ft. Wayne, Indiana. What was our purpose? A learning center and youth program to aid the mission church there. I had moved up from a team member my first year to Director of the Learning Center and my co-worker was Mike Radcliff, Youth Coordinator. Together with Paula Tinkel, Bev Blough, and Joan Holsinger, we organized a learning center with the help and donations of the Indiana churches. How would it turn out? Only God knew. With much prayer, work, sweat, and tears, our learning center began on schedule. After two summers of assisting others in learning centers, I finally saw my own come to life after five months of preparation. The theme for the summer was "Getting to Know Him." The children experienced this through the activities related to the theme. The staff got to know Him better and grew closer to Him as a result. The church members helped to support our efforts both in the learning center and with the youth program. Mike planned it for the junior highs in the neighborhood. Some of the children needed so much attention that my heart went out to them. What could I do for two little girls who almost lived on our doorstep? As I watched these children participating in the activities, I was thankful for my experience from the previous summers. We did have opportunities to visit other churches and to take off for fun and recreation. Before we knew it, the summer was over and we were headed back to General Conference.

These past three summers in Crusaders were times of spiritual growth, rewarding experiences, and lasting friendships. They were not always easy and fun-filled, but neither were they dull. The responses of those we shared with helped us to realize our efforts were worthwhile. The thirty-one Brethren youth who are going out this summer will undoubtedly experience the satisfaction we had. These people will be working with some of you in your churches, your camping programs, and at Brethren Care. Each of the Crusaders should have the opportunity to serve God wherever he or she is placed this summer.

Please support them with your prayers, your help, and your gifts. Help these youth to have a good experience with God. It may not be easy, but it will be a summer vacation to remember for its experiences and friendships in the Lord.

—Ruth Deardurff

Ups and Downs — Derby BYC

We all have our "ups and downs" but sometimes "ups and downs" can be fun and prove to be profitable! The Youth of the Derby, Kansas Brethren Church have $200.00 worth of proof. The $200.00 is the total contribution received in their MARATHON TEETER-TOTTER which lasted 72 hours during the Easter vacation.



Beth Grieve and Mark Solomon "teeter-totter" for India Missions and the National BYC Budget

The teeter-totter was set up in the Dixon Shopping Center after it had been colorfully painted red, white and blue by the youth. We had fine cooperation from the merchants, the city police and the good people of Derby.

Besides collecting money for the National Youth Project, a part of which is Missions for India, the youth also had opportunity to witness to others who stood around and talked.

A word of thanks is due a number of adults who helped by "spelling" the youth, mostly during the late night hours and the wee hours of the morning.

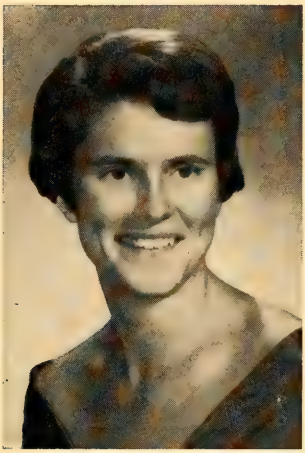
On April 20 a number of our youth participated in the annual WALK FOR MANKIND in Wichita. The Wichita Walk annually ranks as the No. 1 WALK for Project Concern. The goals for the WALK this year were 20,000 walkers and $225,000. The WALK covers 20 miles with contributions being made by persons supporting individual walkers at so much per mile. All monies go for charitable programs around the world with 20% being returned to the local youth group.

Pictures of the Teeter-Totter appeared in both the Derby and Wichita papers and a two-minute clip was shown on Wichita's KAKE-TV news program. The WALK FOR MANKIND also received both newspaper and TV coverage.

Our group is not a large group, but it is an active group! PRAISE THE LORD!

Dave and Dee Benshoff, Youth Sponsors

MRS. DRUSHAL JOINS ICL STAFF



Mrs. J. Michael Drushal

Mrs. J. Michael (Mary Ellen) Drushal, 4881 Emalene Road, Wooster, Ohio, and a member of the Smithville Brethren Church, has been selected as a teaching assistant for the children's division of the International Center for Learning (ICL). She will be assisting with ICL Seminars, sponsored by Gospel Light Publications, in the East and Midwest beginning in the fall of 1974.

Barbara Bolton, ICL staff member and a writer for G/L curriculum, lists the following qualifications for a teaching assistant:

1) Flexibility that permits last minute planning and participation
2) The kind of dedication that makes serving the Lord an integral part of life
3) An understanding of philosophy
4) Experience in implementing the kinds of programs shared at ICL Seminars
5) Ability to communicate with people

Responsibilities for an assistant are to help with small group interaction and projects, assist with audio-visual demonstrations and with physical preparations for sessions, and to be a "warm, caring person."

Mrs. Drushal brings to ICL a wealth of experience in public and Christian education. A graduate of Ashland College, she and her husband, helped Phil and Jean Lersch get Brethren House off the ground in St. Petersburg, Florida. During the summer of 1973, she coordinated the VBS program at Smithville which was patterned after learning center concepts. Because of her experience in this area, she will also be evaluating some new ICL materials dealing with learning center concepts.

Teaching assistants are required for ICL Seminars with large enrollments. Seminars with which Mary may assist, if required, are: Pittsburgh and Erie, Pennsylvania; Detroit, Michigan; Ft. Wayne and Indianapolis, Indiana; Dayton and Ashland, Ohio; Chicago, Illinois; and Buffalo, New York.

Mary and Michael are the parents of two children, Loreen and Jeffrey. She grew up in the Loree Brethren Church, Bunker Hill, Indiana.

The Brethren Church is fortunate to have Mary Ellen on the ICL staff. Plan now to attend the seminar in your area in 1974-75.

1973-74 NATIONAL BYC GUIDELINES

(These Guidelines are in effect from the beginning of the 1973 National BYC Convention to the beginning of the 1974 National BYC Convention).

1. Have at least one representative to:
 A. Nationl BYC Convention
 B. All state/district functions (camps, rallies, retreats, conferences, etc.).
2. Have a guest speaker, from outside your group, at least three times a year, excluding the local advisors and pastor.
3. Have at least one public service per year.
4. Have all members of your group maintain attendance at a weekly Bible study or fellowship other than the regular youth meeting, which may be outside the local church.
5. Participate in the National BYC Budget Ingathering and set a specific amount for the goal to be raised by your group.
6. A. Send at least two reports of your activities to National BYC in Ashland.
 B. Send the statistical report to the National BYC Statistician.
7. Each member make it a practice to have daily devotions.
8. Participate as a group in these projects:
 A. Joint meeting preferably with other BYC groups.
 B. A regular visitation program
 C. A monthly benevolent work within your local church or city.
9. Increase your total group membership by at least 20 per cent of the membership as of Nov. 1, 1973.

Report forms have been issued to the contact person for each local BYC group. Return all forms by July 15 to: Board of Christian Education, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805, ATT: Statistician.

1973-74 NATIONAL BYC BUDGET



The Word is shared and Indian Nationals receive Jesus Christ. $2,000 from the budget will help extend this outreach.

BCE Administrative Expenses	$3,000.00
Projects	4,000.00
Evangelistic Outreach in India	$2,000.00
Summer Crusader Program	2,000.00
Travel Aid for Far West Delegates to the 1975 National BYC Convention	600.00
National BYC Council Travel Expenses	600.00
Special Programs	200.00
Project Promotion	100.00
BUDGET GOAL	$8,500.00

Last year BYC groups from 45 of the 57 churches with registered groups gave $9321.39 toward the budget goal of $7950.00. How many of the 62 churches with registered groups this year will give toward the budget? How far over the $8500.00 goal will we go?

Two awards will be given to groups which excell in this area. The **$10 BYC Group** award will be given to those groups which contribute $10 or more per registered member. **Growth by Faith** awards will go to groups who contribute 10% more in 1974 than they did in 1973.

The average per member giving in 1973 was $7.52 per member. Let's raise it and go over our goal again this August.

IN A FEW DAYS WE'LL ALL BE CRYING



IF YOU DON'T SIGN-UP FOR

discovery 74

August 5-12, 1974

Ohio Camp Bethany

For Youth **Entering** Grade 10 Through Age 22

DEADLINE — JULY 22

Moderator's Manna



It is that time again to focus upon General Conference. It is my hope to see all of you August 13-18 at Ashland, Ohio. This has been a good year for the Church. It has been a very exciting year for me as I have been able to share with you. When we gather in Ashland to celebrate the joys and blessings of our God, I am anticipating speaking with you. Come to explore and plan for the future of the Brethren Church. For these plans and potential ventures will directly effect your church and hopefully you personally. Come and catch the Lord's vision with us!

I am in the process of evaluating the **Moderator's Manna Survey.** I plan to report some vital information at Conference and then follow with a complete report in **The Brethren Evangelist.** Some Brethren have responded very enthusiastically. Other persons and areas of the country have made little or no response. Your personal comments are of value and I have personally appreciated your open and frank suggestions to me. For any who felt I didn't serve their interest in the survey, I hope you will assist in the spiritual growth of your church. That will be fruitful for the denomination and glorify God. I love you all. I want to "Thank You" for your communications.

This Manna was designed to bring several nuggets of thought I hope to express before Conference. One that comes to mind is the warm welcome I received in visiting the District Conferences and Churches. An incident that comes to mind has to be the friendship of a Mrs. Miller of Morrill, Kansas who gave us the royal tour of the Morrill Brethren Church. This beautiful small Mid-west Church and community shared true Brethren hospitality. May God bless these and all the Brethren who practice the love and friendship of Jesus. I am grateful for this experience as Moderator and appreciate your prayers for me, my boys (David & Jonathan) and our anticipated future in ministry.

God has been abundantly rich in grace and abiding peace. The power of God has lifted us through the Spirit in moments of struggle and frustration. . . . Our lives are filled with joy and love as Jesus has constantly gone before us. We trust God for all things and know that every good and loving gift has been provided by our Creator. . . . We live by the Light and walk in truth knowing God has a special plan for us. We seek to discover the fulness of the divine design.

. . . Each day has been rewarding in new encounters and creative experiences with persons in our community, denomination and into broader circles of Christian fellowship. By faith we claim the promises of God as our circle of Christian friends is enlarging and creating a new perspective to Christian ministry.

The theme of the 1974 General Conference is "ONE BODY IN CHRIST." It is a worthy theme as Brethren join "in Christ" to spread the joyful tidings to the world. As this happens it allows us as local churches to see District work and General Conference work as Brethren work regardless of the methods or leaders of any Brethren strategy. The Brethren Church is an international Church. We have sought through the years to propose Christian outreach programs. . . . As we come together in August we will again hear reports of progress and then prayerfully project our future. LET IT BE AS — "ONE BODY IN CHRIST"—pulling together . . . growing the Saviour's Church locally and that virtually means a dynamic Christ-centered mission world-wide. God has given us the power. BRETHREN, may we develop it's potential! . . .

We have the privilege of being united happy pilgrims. The joy and fruitfulness as disciples involved in changing the world is exciting! Brethren must take the lead with God's vision, discovering God's plan of venture and actualizing God's victory through faith in Jesus Christ.

SEE YOU AUGUST 13-18 AT GENERAL CONFERENCE!

Paul D. Steiner
Moderator 1974

SIGNAL LIGHTS' STORIES FOR JULY

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

SAVED BY AN AUNT

"The king is dead!" shouted the messenger. "The king is dead. He was killed in battle."

The king's wicked mother Athaliah heard the news as she stood at the palace window.

"Now's my chance," she said to herself. "I will be the queen and rule the country. But what can I do about the king's children? The people will want one of them to be the ruler."

Athaliah thought of an evil plan. She rang a bell for a servant.

The servant came in and bowed low. "Yes, your highness," he said.

"The king is dead," she said. "I will be queen. Go and kill all of the king's children so they cannot become ruler instead."

As Athaliah was giving her terrible order her daughter Jehosheba happened to be in the hallway. "Oh, no," she thought. "I can't let Mother do that!"

Quickly she ran to the children's rooms. None of them were there except baby Joash. She grabbed him from his crib and threw a blanket over him.

"Come with me," she said to the servant who was Joash's nurse.

Running softly they hurried through the hall to the back stairway. Down the steps they went, out a side door, and across the palace lawn.

Jehosheba took baby Joash and his nurse to the temple. With the help of the minister they fixed a storeroom into a room for them to live in.

Every day Aunt Jehosheba came to play with Joash. She laughed when he tried to take his first wobbly steps. She was pleased when he began to talk. When he was sick she helped the nurse care for him.

Wicked Queen Athaliah ruled the country. The people were sad. No one knew a king was growing up in the temple.

The minister taught Joash the law of his country and how to be a good king. He taught him about God and how to serve Him.

When Joash was about eight years old the minister said, "The people need to know Joash is alive."

So he called all the people to the temple. "I have a surprise for you," he said. "The king's son Joash is alive."

Then Joash came before the people. They bowed low. The trumpeters blew their horns and all the people shouted for joy, "Long live the king!"

"What's going on in the temple?" wondered Queen Athaliah. "I'll go and see."

As soon as she entered the temple she knew what was happening. "Stop this!" she demanded. "I'm your queen!"

But the people only laughed at her. They took Joash home to the palace.

Joash was king for forty years. He was a good king. He was kind to his people and he served God.

—Based on II Kings 11 and 12

Memory Scripture: Proverbs 20:11

LOS CHICOS DE MI BARRIO

(The Children in my Neighborhood)

Missionary Ken Solomon
Medellin, Colombia, S.A.

A very short time after we moved into this "Barrio" that is called La Castellana we had the pleasure of a visit from at least five of our new little neighbors. We didn't know them or their names at that time, but we do now after living here four months. Their names are: Ivan, Miguel, Marta, Sergio Velasquez and Carlos Mario and Maria Eugenia Tobon. They live right across the street from us and are so very friendly and nice that it took very little time to become good friends with them. It took much longer to be able to understand the very rapid and different way they speak Spanish in comparison with the children we knew in Argentina.

What do you suppose attracted these good-looking Colombian children and caused them to overcome their timid nature in order to visit the new family, the Solomons, who had just moved into their "Barrio?" You will think it strange when I tell you what it was that God used to attract them to us the first time. It was—should I tell you now or leave it until the next report? No I'll tell you now so as not to keep you in suspense. It was my son Joel's set of "Hot-Wheels." He had them out in the garage area that has a large door opening right out on the sidewalk at the front of our house. They asked if they might come in to play with him.

We said, "Of course you may."

After awhile each one went home (the boys, that is) to get some of their own little cars so that each of them might have something to play with.

The girls got tired of playing with the boys and went to the back of our property where Margie has a playroom and her dolls. So God used our small children, Joel and Margaret, and their toys to attract these lovely Colombian boys and girls.

Since then we have gone on picnics with them and, at noon when they have about two hours off from school for lunch and rest, they often come over into our living room. They take down one of the ten-volume set of Bible stories. These books are written in Spanish and have lovely pictures. Since some can't read very well as yet I sit down on the couch to read to them. So you see, even though we don't have a Sunday school and church to go to, or to which to invite them, we often have Sunday school and church in our own living room. Well, I guess you wouldn't call it "Sunday" school since we have it on any day of the week that they come to visit us, but just the same they are learning about Jesus and the Bible, just as you boys and girls do in your churches on Sunday.

You would never guess where and on what occasion I was able to teach them some Christian songs. It was in the back of their Dad's pick-up truck on the way down the mountains coming back to Medellin from a picnic. Their Dad had insisted that there was room for all of us up front (for him, his wife, my wife Jan and me), but I felt led of the Lord to accept the instant invitation of the children to sit in the back even though it was far less comfortable. There it was that God gave me the idea and the opportunity to teach them some lovely songs about Jesus. And, do you know what? After not having contact with them for several days (dias in Spanish), I was thrilled to find they had not forgotten the words even though I had to help them with the tune. So, now when they visit me and each one wants to sing or say various songs and verses they have learned in school or from the TV, I gradually am replacing them with new, Christian songs about Jesus.

Please pray every day for Ivan, Miguel, Marta, and Sergio Velasquez, and for Carlos Mario and Maria Eugenia. And of course for their parents, too, that they may continue to come to our Bible studies in our home and become saved.

ANNOUNCING A FILM

For

Monday Night of General Conference

Those conference attenders arriving in Ashland on Monday (and not involved in board or committee meetings) will have a special eye-opening treat in the evening.

"AFRICA: DRY EDGE OF DISASTER" (a World Relief Film) will be shown in Memorial Chapel at 7:30 p.m. It's a 16mm full-color motion picture presentation of the Sub-Sahara people and their fight against extinction.

At this same program there will also be an introduction to the World Relief SEWING WORKSHOP—which will be in operation all week.

BRETHREN BOND OF PRAYER

Men and women in the Brethren Church are uniting in a BOND OF PRAYER to pray regularly for God to supply pastors, missionaries, Christian education leadership, and all types of workmen for the Kingdom. The last issue of the Evangelist included the names of those who are uniting in this prayer effort. If you wish to join these people in this BOND OF PRAYER will you please indicate that desire by writing to me:

Charles R. Munson
Ashland Theological Seminary
Ashland, Ohio 44805

You need only say in a letter or on a postcard that you will **regularly pray** for God to supply leaders.

Plan to attend the event of the year!

THE WORD

"Event of the Year" for Youth and Adults

All Conference Banquet
August 16, 1974

Come . . . See . . . Hear . . . !

* The Printed Word—slide presentation—"How the Publishing Company advances the total work of The Brethren Church"
* The Living Word—Howard Jones, Billy Graham Associate—"How Christ, The Living Word, affects our lives."
* The Spoken Word—Youth and Seminary musical groups—"How the musically spoken Word inspires us."

Reservation must be sent in to the Publishing Company by August 9, 1974. Tickets must be picked up and paid for, if payment is not sent with reservation by Wednesday of Conference week. $4 per ticket.

ALL CONFERENCE BANQUET RESERVATION

Number of reservations desired _____

Names: _____

Ordered by: _____

Address: _____

Return to: Brethren Publishing Company
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

SEWING AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

Ashland, Ohio — August 13-18

The WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE is sponsoring 3 special Sewing Features this year at General Conference:

(1) SEWING DISPLAY

As in former years, completed articles will be displayed—thus giving ideas to other sewing groups (or individuals) of what can be done and how various items are made.

(2) SEWING WORKSHOP (New this year)

In addition to looking at the displayed articles, women will have opportunity to come to the Workshop room in their free time and make articles during the week—or take materials with them for knitting and sewing during Conference leisure moments. This will be a good time to learn about new things needed for World Relief, India, Brethren Care (Ashland) and Brethren Home (Flora.). And you will have instruction and practice in making several items.

(3) SEWING BOOKLET (New this year)

This newly-printed Brethren Sewing Booklet will be available at Conference. It includes World Relief ideas, but also the latest information about the sewing needs of our India Mission, Brethren Care, and the Brethren Home.

You Can Help Now

Articles that your Sewing Group has made are needed for the DISPLAY. Please label them and bring them to Conference with you.

Donated materials are needed for the WORKSHOP. Gather together what you can of the following and bring it to Conference—along with your own knitting needles or crochet hooks:

Materials Needed (Colorful and bright prints, please):
- —Light-weight cotton materials
- —Permanent press materials
- —Terry cloth
- —Heavy-duty permanent press

Also Needed:
- —Light weight yarns, sport weight and baby yarns
- —Threads of all colors
- —Bias tape
- —Hook and eye fasteners.

If you can assist in any way with these two needs described above, please inform one of the following—which will help greatly in the planning:

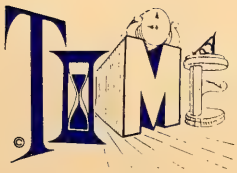
Indiana—
Mrs. Duane (Helen) Dickson
Rt. 3, Box 161
Wabash, IN 46992

Ohio and **Other States—**
Mrs. Charles (Aida May) Munson
616 Park Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805

The place for the Sewing Display and Workshop is yet to be decided, but it is hoped a large room on campus will be available for continuous projects all during Conference.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Mrs. Munson.

Phil Lersch, Chairman
BRETHREN WORLD
RELIEF COMMITTEE



MARCHES ON!

Fifty Years Ago—The Commencement exercises at Ashland College presented the following number of graduates: One candidate for the Master of Arts Degree; Three for Bachelor of Divinity Degree; Twenty-one for Bachelor of Arts; One for Bachelor of Oratory; One Bachelor of Music; Six, Two Year Normal and Four English Divinity.

Twenty Five Years Ago—A Gospel team from Ashland College consisting of Charles Munson, Spencer Gentle, Clarence Stogsdill and Miss Lois Coleman presented a program to the youth of Falls City, Nebraska which inspired the organization of a Brethren Youth Fellowship Group and adoption of the C.E. programs produced by W. S. Benshoff.

Ten Years Ago—Rev. Gene Hollinger, recently graduated from the Ashland Theological Seminary accepted the call to take over the pastorate of the Burlington, Indiana Brethren Church.

Ashland Theological Seminary
910 Center
Ashland, Ohio - 44805

GENERAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

MONDAY, August 12 Pre-Conference activities

Central Council and Board meetings; Conference registration; World Relief film showing in Memorial Chapel at 7:30 p.m. entitled "AFRICA: DRY EDGE OF DISASTER."

TUESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, August 13-18

Early Prayer Periods in dorms; Music and Inspiration; Moderator Paul Steiner's Address, Ashland College & Seminary Program, Sharing a ministry by James Black and Eugene Beekley; Business Sessions; Meditations by Dr. Bruce Stark; Sessions for W.M.S., Sisterhood, Ministers' Wives, Brotherhood, Laymen, Ministers.

Afternoons there will be six Bible Study sessions daily, "LAYMEN ALIVE" Evangelism Training by Arden Gilmer being offered to a limited number of registrants as well as other meetings and activities including the W.M.S. Inspirational Service and Christian Education workshops.

Evenings there will be Vesper Services and the Inspirational hours: the Laymen will have Dr. Paul Reidhead as speaker, the Board of Christian Education will present "Discovery," Dr. Howard Jones of the Billy Graham evangelistic team will be Conference Evangelist speaking each evening Thursday through Saturday and at the early hour on Sunday morning. (Saturday and the early service Sunday will have a strong missionary emphasis.)

Other special features will include: A full Youth Convention program, the Thursday noon World Relief Supper, a Friday noon fellowship of Laymen and Brotherhood, the Friday evening ALL CONFERENCE BANQUET, and the Sunday morning hour of choral worship featuring "Allelulia" which concludes the conference.

HOUSING AND MEAL INFORMATION

The Administration would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Conference Delegates back to the College Campus for the 1974 General Conference. We will attempt to make your stay a most enjoyable one.

Conference delegates will be housed in Kilhefner and Amstutz Halls. Both halls have elevators and are easily accessible to the air-conditioned Dining Hall and Chapel.

Ample housing is available which will eliminate the need for advanced reservations. Delegates may choose the Residence Hall of their choice on a **first come basis** upon arrival. Delegates to the Brotherhood and Sisterhood will be placed in rooms adjoining their chaperones. Room assignments will not be made for any single person under 18 unless they have a chaperone. There will be a $3.00 **Room Change** Fee for room changes made after the occupant has moved into the room. Rooms may be held for later occupancy by a non refundable deposit of one night's rent.

All delegates rooming on campus must furnish their own blankets, towels, and wash cloths. Sheets will be furnished for all residents by the college. Room keys will be issued. A $2.00 key deposit is required of each person occupying the room.

Rates for rooms will be $3.50 per night per person two to a room and $4.00 per night single occupancy. Special rates are available to children under 10 years of age sharing one room with both parents. Children in room with only one parent pay full rate. Both Kilhefner and Amstutz Halls will be open at 9:00 A.M. Monday, August 12 and close at 2:00 P.M. Sunday, August 18th.

MEAL RATES

	A LA CARTE
BREAKFAST	
NOON LUNCHEON	$1.85
DINNER	$2.50
SUNDAY NOON	$2.50

The Brethren EVANGELIST

Ashland Theological Library
Ashland, Ohio



General Conference -- Ashland, Ohio

August 12-18 1974

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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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General Conference Speaker

MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS



TO THE EDITOR

Ruf (02755) 211 *May 20, 1974*
5921 Luftkurort Schwarzenau (Eder)
Kreis Wittgenstein
Dear Editor:

The people of Schwarzenau, Germany are as beautiful as our Brethren throughout the United States. I walked 30 Kms. to get here. As I was soaking my feet in the River Eder, I thought of that first baptism of the eight and Alexander Mack and our church origin.

The people now know of the Ashland Brethren as they are very hospitable. I shall never forget them.

My Love in Christ,
Tom Schultz, U.S. Navy Chaplain

A recent communique from Chaplain Thomas A. Schultz reveals that he will deploy to the western Pacific on the ship USS CAMDEN (AOE-2) on September 1, 1974 from his homeport in Bremmerton, Washington, (Seattle area). He will be stationed on the sea-going vessel two years.

During this two-year period Mrs. Schultz, (Pat) and sons, Steve, Mark and Tim will reside at 9090 Moody Street, Apt. No. 227 Cypress, California 90630. Chaplain Schultz says the ministry at the Naval Station, Long Beach, California was most pleasant and spiritually fruitful and since the hazards of being a Navy Chaplain are hidden, looks to God for comforting love during these trying times. We trust that the entire brotherhood will remember Tom as they prayerfully seek His will in all things.

By the Way

WHEN ANXIETY EXPLODES!

This guest editorial is taken from a series of articles written by Roy L. Smith entitled "LITTLE LESSONS IN SPIRITUAL EFFICIENCY" and is used by permission of The United Methodist Publishing House. These appeared in The Christian ADVOCATE approximately 30 years ago and although our technology has advanced tremendously in those 30 years these same "Lessons In Spiritual Efficiency" are as valuable to our society today as they were then. We hope to share a few of these with our readers in future issues.

For many weeks he had been working under heavy strain. The conditions in his business were never easy, and irritations had been multiplying of late as a result of labor troubles, the scarcity of raw materials, and the difficulties of delivery.

Several times his wife had felt a certain vague concern on his behalf, and had gently cautioned him "not to worry." Some of his friends at the Rotary Club had remarked that he was nervous and snappy, not like himself. When he went to church he was unable to keep his mind on the service, and several times came home decidedly out of sorts with the preacher because he did not "get down to earth in his sermon."

Then came the fateful day when, late one afternoon, he exploded. "He blew up over nothing," one of the stenographers said, but that was not quite true. A trifle set off the explosion, but that was because his anxiety had been accumulating over a long period of time. "Something snapped," he said, when he tried to explain it to his wife. At any rate a crisis was precipitated from which he has not yet recovered.

Most of us are able to meet the great crises of our lives, but we find difficulty in handling the petty irritations of life. "Lord, deliver us from the gnats," an old man prayed. "We are plenty able to take care of the elephants ourselves."

Good religion, if it is really good, will assist us in meeting the burdens of anxiety. Bishop Bruce Baxter quotes a certain woman as saying, "The trouble with life is it is so daily." She was talking about the same difficult problem.

The business man whose anxiety exploded could have saved himself from disaster if he had been able to do four things, all definitely religious.

1. He could have assured himself every day that very few things are fatal. Most of the petty irritations which annoyed him so were only temporary! The maddening letter would not appear nearly so bad the next day; there was some good explanation for the fact that they did not answer his wire; the trouble with that foreman was only a passing affair, and the next morning all was serene again.

2. He could have allowed himself to relax. Every good carpenter takes time out to sharpen his saw. The best speeches are made by those who refuse to become tense more than three minutes before they begin delivering their addresses. The most perfect song is sung by the artist with the relaxed throat. It often happens that the time spent in the middle of the day at a merry lunch or a game of handball is the most profitable hour of the twenty-four. Once we let go, we find it easier to take hold again.

3. He could have administered positive thoughts to his mind. As soon as he began to dread and fear his problems they recognized his weakness and swarmed over him. Had he looked them squarely in the eye and said, "I am bigger than you are," they would have surrendered to his courage and his faith in himself. Instead of questioning his ability all day long, he might have assured himself of his own power, and thus marshalled his forces.

4. He could have prayed aggressively. Because he was trying to be a Christian he prayed, but he prayed ineffectively. Time and again he turned from his task with a frantic cry for help. But help was waiting at his side all the time. He did not need to beg for it; he only needed to appropriate it. Like the psalmist who prayed, "The Lord is my shepherd," he could have prayed, "God is with me, and nothing is too hard for me. His help is my strength, I shall not lack."

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION



LAUSANNE, Switzerland—Three speakers at the forthcoming International Congress on World Evangelization here will call for evangelical Christians to demonstrate their unity in a more concrete way.

One of the three, Professor Peter Beyerhaus of Tubingen University, Germany, specifically urges creation of a "worldwide association for the evangelization of the world in our generation." His remarks, and those of Professor Henri Blocher of the Evangelical Theological Seminary, Vaux-sur-Seine, France, and Professor Donald McGavran of Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, U.S.A., are contained in papers prepared for the July 16-25 congress.

With 2700 participants invited from around the world, it is expected to be the largest and most representative gathering of evangelicals ever held.

The meeting is designed to focus attention on the possibility of helping believers share the Christian Gospel with every person on earth before the end of this century.

Blocher asks in his paper whether those interested in world evangelism should not be thinking "of other ordered expressions of our unity beyond this very meeting in Lausanne." He suggests a "permanent expression" while noting that the Bible imposes no certain forms of fellowship on believers.

McGavran raises the "fascinating possibility" of a "cooperative arrangement" whereby North American and European Christians can help the burgeoning force of missionaries being sent out from Africa, Asia and Latin America. He calls for evangelicals to think in new dimensions and to support an overall worldwide strategy that will "take a long step toward meeting basic human needs and liberating societies."

Whether their suggestions find much acceptance will be evident even before the Lausanne congress. In an unusual procedure, the papers are being mailed to participants months in advance to give them opportunities to study and respond to the major documents. When the speakers take the platform in the Palais de Beaulieu here, they will not read the complete messages. Instead, they will use their allotted time to summarize their main points and then to comment on the responses that have come to them from around the world.

Participants are being asked to note any disagreements they have with the papers and to suggest additional emphases, further applications in their own cultures and points they want clarified. Other major papers of the congress will also be mailed for study and comment. Second and third sets, from additional authors, will follow the first mailing at intervals of about a month.

"We are trying to pick the brains of the church around the world," congress program director Paul Little said of the effort to elicit responses. He believes the insights of hundreds of Christians from a variety of cultural, racial, linguistic and educational backgrounds will help shape the documents into some of the most useful evangelization material ever provided for the 20th century church.

McGavran, senior professor of missions at Fuller Seminary and one of the leading authorities on church growth, assails the current wave of negativism about Christian missions apparent in some churches. He strongly urges "the church in all six continents" to "surge forward in evangelism."

The California author and former missionary warns, "This congress must beware of pessimistic generalizations to the effect that evangelism is passe, missionaries are not wanted, modern man demands bread not God, and a pluralistic world simply cannot conceive of one way to God and one revelation of His will." He says some of these "gloomy generalizations" are the result of European and North American guilt complexes.

McGavran cites receptivity to the Gospel in many areas of the globe and explosive church growth in some, such as sub-Sahara Africa and Korea. Now is the time for advance, he argues.

He charges, "Much negativism is the outcome of eroded faith, non-Biblical presuppositions, and heretical opinions, phrased in seemingly objective judgments about 'the modern mind' and 'current trends.'" The Fuller professor continues, "This congress must reject sub-Christian philosophies and theologies masquerading as scientific assessment of the situation."

While the first three papers were written by two Europeans and a North American, subsequent ones will come from other parts of the world. About half of the speakers and leaders of the Lausanne gathering will be from Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Some of the congress leaders from the churches in the so-called developing nations are expected to give the meeting fresh views of opportunities to present the message of Christ.

Beyerhaus, professor of missions at Tubingen, urges the congress to work for coordination of missionary efforts around the globe that would include "all churches, mission societies, Christian groups and individuals who sincerely believe that the proclamation of the undiluted Gospel to the unreached two billion is our most important task in this decisive hour of world history."

His call for a "worldwide association" for evangelization and the similar appeals from the other two speakers are significant because evangelicals

have generally been wary of such organizations. While those who accept historic Christian doctrine have agreed they have spiritual unity, they have seldom committed themselves to visible forms of unity.

Blocher, from France, rejects organic union of denominations as the best and highest example of Christian unity, but he calls on evangelicals to seek ways of exemplifying their common Christian allegiance. He notes that many mergers, in fact, have resulted in decreased evangelistic commitment and activity.

He suggests that evangelicals, who accept the Bible as the Word of God, have more reason than others to be united. The seminary professor claims that it is not necessary for them to sacrifice their diversity to achieve unity.

Blocher's paper, which is an exposition of Biblical texts regarding unity, mentions the historic Christian doctrine of the trinity as an example.

"The divine trinity is only a pattern," according to the French theologian, "but a foundation of that marriage of unity and diversity which holds under suspicion all enterprises of bureaucratic uniformity. Only the trinity makes it possible to keep the One and the Multiple from struggling as two opposite principles."

Beyerhaus' overall topic is the Kingdom of God. In developing the subject he urges Christians to keep in balance the Old and New Testament references to establishment of God's reign. He reminds that the basis of all true renewal is spiritual but that many practical effects flow from spiritual change.

The German missions authority decries the calls from some churchmen to align Christianity with Marxism or other revolutionary forces to "establish the kingdom." Because the Kingdom of God is basically spiritual, it never could be established by political action, he contends.

"This new concept of 'mission' is today's greatest menace to the worldwide church," Beyerhaus declares. "I would call it the mission of Barabbas. It has no promise of the Lord."

Both Beyerhaus and McGavran call for an evangelical social concern, however. They point to major social changes that have taken place because of the work of Christian converts.

ARIZONA CRUSADE

PHOENIX, Arizona, May 12, 1974—Evangelist Billy Graham closed a sun-drenched Crusade in Arizona State University's Sun Devil Stadium today with a warning of impending divine judgment and a challenge to 45,000 listeners to return to the gospel of love proclaimed by Jesus Christ.

"Sodom and Gomorrah had nothing comparable to what we have today in America," Graham said in an 8-day series of meetings video taped for TV network release next month. "Either we turn to Christ or we are lost. An ideal society cannot be built on the cracked foundations of human nature."

It was the evangelist's first major Crusade in Arizona. During the week, an average of over 30,000 persons came to the nightly meetings in the stadium according to official attendance figures. Inquirers who came down on the field at the invitation to receive Christ averaged over 1200 per night.

Speaking at a time when national crises were affecting not only America and Canada, but many capitals of Western Europe, Graham called on Christians to work harder than ever to spread Christ's gospel of love throughout the world. He expressed hope that the forthcoming International Congress on World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland, next July would cause an intensification of evangelistic effort.

The crowds were friendly and responsive in the balmy weather. An unusual feature of the Crusade was the active participation of hundreds of Indian Christians from the tribes of the Southwest. On Saturday night, May 11, the Indian spokesman presented Graham with an eagle headdress and bestowed on him an Indian name, Natani, Warrior of the Great Spirit. Apache, Pima, Navajo, Hopi, and a dozen other tribes were represented as Indians came to the stadium in busses from reservations as far as 300 miles distance.

The friendship and love expressed by Christians of white and red background was in contrast to the racial passions being stirred at the Wounded Knee trial conducted at the same time in St. Paul, Minnesota. A young Indian evangelist told 32,750 persons present in Sun Devil Stadium on Saturday, "I used to hate the white people but now I love the white people because I have Jesus Christ in my heart."

Graham's preaching ranged over a number of current topics including: exorcism, Watergate, famine in Africa, marriage, poverty, and the reshaping of social structures. During the week members of his Team were busy in the Phoenix-Tempe area addressing service clubs, women's groups, high school rallies and classes at Arizona State University, Phoenix College, Mesa Junior College, Grand Canyon College, and other nearby institutions.

Among the platform guests at the Crusade were Arizona Governor Jack Williams, Mike McCoy, former professional football player with the Green Bay Packers, and Congressman John Conlan.

A total of 400 churches cooperated in the effort according to Crusade Director Sterling Huston. A School of Evangelism conducted at Grace Community Church of Tempe drew 350 pastors, evangelists, and seminary students from the area.

The next major Billy Graham Crusade will be in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 2-6, then Norfolk, Virginia, November 3-10, 1974.

WHO RULES THE RUSSIAN CHURCH?

An open letter from Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's exile by the Russian government made headlines around the world. He is perhaps the greatest of modern Russian writers, winner of a Nobel Prize for literature, and praised for his courageous attack on the terrorism of Soviet prison camps in The Gulag Archipelago.

Solzhenitsyn is also a committed Christian, and was an active member of the Russian Orthodox Church prior to his exile. But he is deeply critical of the church's accommodation to the Communist government. Last year, deciding that "further silence is impossible," he wrote this open letter to the Patriarch of All Russia.

Your pastoral letter said that parents should inculcate in their children, along with a love for their native land, a love for the church (and presumably for the faith itself?) and that they should reinforce this love by their own good example.

As I heard this there rose up before me my own childhood, the many church services I attended, and the impression they made on me; singular in freshness and purity, which no personal suffering and no intellectual theories were able later to erase.

But why did you address this honest appeal only to Russian emigres? What about our children—should we inspire in them a love of the church or not?

We are robbing our children when we deprive them of something they can never experience again—the pure angelic preception of worship. Yet the ways of bringing them up in the faith are totally barred to them. The right to continue the faith of their fathers is annulled, as is the right of parents to bring up their children in their own outlook on life—while you, hierarchs of the church, have accommodated yourselves to this, even abetting it and finding in it a true sign of freedom of religion.

A state of affairs, that is, in which we have to hand over our defenseless children into the domain of atheist propaganda of the most primitive and dishonest kind.

A situation in which our young people who have been snatched away from the Christian faith—lest they should be infected by it—are left for their moral upbringing only the abyss between the propagandist's notebook and the criminal code.

We have lost the radiant ethical atmosphere of Christianity in which for a millenium our morals were grounded. We have forfeited our way of life, our outlook on the world, our folklore, even the very name by which the Russian peasant was known (Krestianin, that is Christian). We are losing the last features and marks of a Christian people. Can this really not be the principal concern of the Russian patriarch?

The Russian church expresses its concern about any evil in distant Asia or Africa. It never has anything at all to say about things which are wrong here at home.

Seven years have now passed since two honest priests confirmed by their own sacrificial example that the pure flame of the Christian faith had not been snuffed out in our land. They wrote to your predecessor, setting out for him with a wealth of detailed proof that voluntary self-enslavement, even self-destruction, to which the Russian church has been reduced. They asked that anything untrue in their letter should be pointed out to them. But none of the church leaders took it upon himself to refute them.

And what answer did they receive? The simplest and the harshest. For telling the truth they were punished by being barred from celebrating at the altar.

As of today the one fearless archbishop, Ermogen of Kaluga, is still exiled in his monastery-prison because he would not allow his churches to be closed or his icons and books to be burned, in a belated burst of rage, by that atheism which succeeded in destroying so much in other dioceses.

Seven years have passed since all this was proclaimed, but what has changed? For every church in regular use there are 20 which have been demolished or ruined beyond repair, and a further 20 standing desolate and profaned. How many towns and villages are there which have a church at all within 100 or even 200 kilometers? The northern regions of our country, the age-long

The three letters appeared in the Eastern Churches Review of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and were translated from the Russian.

repository of the Russian spirit, are now completely without churches.

The activists, people who make financial sacrifices, and others who leave money to the church, find that their every effort to restore even the smallest church is blocked by the biased legislation on the so-called separation of church and state. The Gospel is nowhere to be obtained in our country, so that copies of it have to be brought to us from abroad, as missionaries once took them to Siberia.

Seven years have passed, and the whole administration of the church is still conducted secretly by the 'Council for Religious Affairs,' including the appointment of pastors and bishops. The church is ruled dictatorially by atheists—a sight never before seen in two millenia! The whole of the church's property and the use of church funds—the mites contributed by pious fingers—is under their control. Five million rubles at a time are donated to outside funds with grandiloquent gestures, while beggars are thrown off the church porch on their necks and there is nothing with which to repair a leaking roof.

Priests have no rights in their own parishes; only the act of worship is entrusted to them for the time being, so long as they do not go outside the church for it. They have to ask permission of the town council if they want to visit a sick person or enter the churchyard.

By what reasoning is it possible to convince oneself that the planned destruction of the spirit and body of the church under the guidance of atheists is the best way of preserving it? Preserving it for whom? Certainly not for Christ.

Let us not deceive ourselves that external chains have power over our souls. Things were no easier at the birth of the Christian faith; nevertheless it held out and prospered. And it showed us the way: sacrifice.

Within our memory many of our priests and fellow-believers have accepted such a martyrdom, worthy of the early Christians. But in those days they were thrown to the lions, whereas today you can lose only your material well-being.

In these days, as you go down on your knees before the cross, ask the Lord what other purpose but sacrifice can there be in your service to your people, who have almost lost their Christian countenance and even the spirit of the faith?

'The work of the Lord is hard'

(Father Sergii Zheludkov replied publicly to Solzhenitsyn's letter, pointing out that it was impossible for the patriarch to reply. In another letter published in 1968, Zheludkov had pointed out the "indescribably difficult circumstances" of the Russian church. "From time to time our patriarch declares that the Russian church enjoys the most complete freedom. It would not be wise to treat this seriously, and it would be unfair to reproach us for this." Part of his reply to Solzhenitsyn follows.)

The legal church organization cannot be an island of freedom in our strictly unified society. There exists this strictly centralized system, and within it, in a surprising manner, is preserved an alien body—The Russian Orthodox Church. It exists in very strictly determined conditions. We are not permitted to work at the religious education of children or of adults, just as we are not permitted to do many other things necessary for the existence of real church life. We are permitted only one thing—to conduct divine worship in our churches; and it is supposed that this is continued only for a disappearing generation.

What can we do in such a situation? Should we say: all or nothing? Should we try to go underground which in the present system is unthinkable? Or should we try somehow to accept the system and for the present make use of those opportunities that are permitted? The Russian hierarchy took the latter decision.

Hence today all the evil about which you rightly write, as well as all the evil you did not mention. But there was no other choice. You justly write about the abuses that have not existed during 2,000 years of Christian history. But never before have our conditions of existence been known.

The late patriarch, unable to answer in words the accusations of the two priests to whom you referred, answered in action: he forbade them to serve, and thereby he confirmed the truth of their argument. It is good that it happened that way, and it was precisely in the courage of the two priests that the moral beauty of their action lay (which cannot be said, forgive me, of your amazingly pretentious document). . .

Our present patriarch has also no opportunity to answer you by word. By what action could he answer you? Only by giving up his position. But there is no one better to take his place. And anyway, one man cannot change anything, So everything would stay the same.

There must be no incitement to sacrifice and martyrdom in the church of Christ. We have enough willing martyrs both inside and outside the church (the distinction is rather conditional). I am sorry you did not mention the churchmen Boris Talantov, who died in prison, and Anatolii Levitin, now suffering prison. I would say that our duty today is for each to work as best we can in the opportunities open to us. In general we must make a healthy acknowledgment of reality:

(continued on next page)

the Russian church hierarchy in its present composition and in our present system cannot in any significant way affect the system. It is easy and safe to accuse the bishops, but in fact the work of the Lord is hard. The destiny of the Russian church is inseparably linked to the fate of the people. If "there is a future," then there will also inevitably be a renaissance of Russian Christianity.

'One man **can** do something'

(Solzhenitsyn then replied, briefly, to Zheludkov.)

"If there is a future . . . ," you say. Are we not going to do anything about it? Is that what Christ taught? It is precisely the inward defense of the faith that is gone. It is precisely inward strength that has been lost. Most of all it is the hierarchy who have lost it.

You neglected to point out the main solution, the one to which I appealed: to re-educate the world by means of visible personal sacrifice. "One man can do nothing," you say. That's not true. One man can do something. Anyone can. Did you know anything about me nine years ago? But today you are going to the other extreme, saying that I can't safely do anything. How did this come about? Evidently there is a way! You say that I have been surrounded by the silent sympathy of many of my compatriots. Well, is this any less true for the church? Doesn't the patriarch still have millions of believers?

Of course it would be wrong to incite people to martyrdom. But may we not call them to the way of sacrifice? Why should you forbid this?

This version of the Solzhenitsyn "open letter" and the subsequent correspondence was published in the April 3, 1974 issue of The LUTHERAN from the UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER of Canada and are being reprinted in the pages of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST with permission.

A PRAYER

by Alexander Solzhenitsyn



O Lord it is easy to dwell with you!
So easy for me to believe in you!
When spirit clouds over and I, crushed, am made dumb
When even the smartest people know not what tomorrow will bring
You bestow the clear assuredness of being
Vigilantly keeping the channels of goodness unclogged.
Surpassing thus the summit of earthly glory I behold the way, which alone I never could have found
Wondrous way, opposite to despair,
Whence myself shall become the reflection of your world.
What need have I to speak what you alone shall reveal to me, and if I find not the time to carry it through
It means you've chosen others for the task.

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Translated from Russian by Hilda Prpic.

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE



ASHLAND, Ohio, June 8—Dr. Leslie Lindower, who has been associated with the faculty of Ashland College for more than 35 years, retired July 1, Dr. Ernest Kozma, vice president of academic affairs, said today.

Dr. Lindower, who was dean of the college for 20 years, has been director of the library and academic research center since 1972. Previously he served the college as librarian from 1926-29 and professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at Ashland Theological Seminary from 1937 to 1949. From 1961 through 1966 he was head of the education department of Ashland College and in 1952 was appointed dean.

He is an alumnus of Ashland College (1926) and Ashland Theological Seminary (1928). He was awarded his Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Dallas (Texas) Theological Seminary and has completed additional graduate work at the Ohio State University in teacher education.

Dr. Lindower holds membership in Kappa Delta Pi. For many years he has been an active participant in the liberal arts workshops of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1973, Dr. Lindower was named an Outstanding Alumus of Ashland College for his achievement in higher education.

A native of Canton, Dr. Lindower is affiliated with the First Brethren Church of Ashland. He has served as secretary and moderator of the Brethren Church General Conference.

Dr. Lindower and his wife, Ida, reside at 734 Country Club Lane. They are the parents of Dr. John O. Lindower, associate professor of pharmacology at Ohio State University School of Medicine; Mrs. Jean Joyce Lersch of St. Petersburg, Florida; and Mrs. Ann Catherine Eagle of Norwalk. They have seven grandchildren.

WARNER ANNOUNCES SECOND $2,500 BOOK CONTEST

ANDERSON, Ind. (EP)—Book manuscripts are being sought by Warner Press here for its 1975 $2,500 cash prize contest, which also offers a standard royalty contract.

Editorial material will be received July 1 to Dec. 1 this year. The Church of God publishing firm seeks narratives of personal religious experiences, with adequate biblical grounding, focused on some aspect of Christian answers to life's problems.

James W. Angell, winnner of Fleming H. Revell's 1971 Centennial Book Award, took Warner's 1973 prize with his book, O Susan!

SCHULLER INSTITUTE TRAINS PASTORS, LAYMEN FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. (EP)—The 16th Institute for Successful Church Leadership opened here April 17 at Garden Grove Community Church, serving 170 pastors and lay leaders.

Registrants came from as far away as Africa to spend five days absorbing the church growth techniques which have been used successfully by the nation's first drive-in congregation.

Dr. Robert H. Schuller, founder of the church, was joined by R. Stanley Tam, Win Arn and C. Peter Wagner in scheduled seminars.

SISTERHOOD

by Mrs. Sherry (Barnhart) Van Duyne



Girls!

Now that school's out, I feel like a free person again. For the past nine weeks I have been teaching 8th grade Math at a near-by Junior High School and it really kept me busy. Let me share a secret with you all. Teachers count the days until summer vacation just like the kids do.

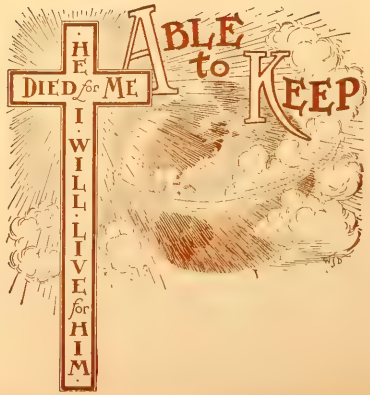
Teaching has opened my eyes and my heart to what eighth grade is really all about. Each of you girls are students at different levels and yet there are a few principles that hold true for any level of school and life.

Girls, I don't want to preach a sermon or lecture you but I am concerned about the problems you are faced with. Every person NEEDS to be liked and accepted by the people around you. Each of you want the kids in your class to like you. That is the way it should be. I pray that everyone is liked. It's great to be popular and well-liked. I was and it was fun. Speaking of when I was in school, things have really changed almost 100% in the 5 years that I've been out of high school. Several things have changed that I wish had not especially for Christians. Like for example—being popular. What is the price of being popular now? Does it mean being one of the gang no matter what? Does it mean giving up some things to do what is "in"? What about stealing, sex, drugs, and lying? Do popular kids do these things? I have found in too many cases (not all of them, thank God) that popularity is doing these exact things. I wish that I could say that it's easy to be somebody special but it isn't. I found that the kids who were the most popular were the ones that really had the most problems. They were giving up their pride and individuality just so their friends would like them. So really they were giving up more than they were receiving.

What I'm saying is that being popular or being well-liked is not the wrong part. The wrong part is giving up your pride and independance and personhood. God made the special effort to make each of us different. Not carbon copies who dress alike, like the same things, or go the same places. In fact **because** His Son, Jesus died for us and gives us all the love that we want for free, we don't have to be just like everyone else. He loves us like we are. He made us to be ourselves. We don't have to smoke or "pop" pills or lie. Jesus loves us. He accepts us and He will even send you the right friends and let you be popular **IF** you follow Him and not the crowd. Christ commanded us to not worry about pleasing man but to only please Him. When we do, our lives are much more fun, more meaningful and **totally** filled with love and popularity.

Be strong! Be yourselves! Be faithful to Christ and His teachings!

Sherry



A WORLD RELIEF PLEDGE TO YOU

The World Relief Commission (of the National Association of Evangelicals) recently issued the following pledge to all those contributors to World Relief through their agency.

This is, in essence, a pledge to the Brethren Church and an explanation of the guiding principles by which WRC goes about their work on our behalf.

It is a source of confidence to realize again the conscientious manner with which WRC guides the use of our combined offerings.

Phil Lersch, Chairman
BRETHREN WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

The Pledge

To work with evangelical missionary and national church personnel wherever possible to provide a quick and reliable channel of Christian help and hope to needy people in areas of disaster.

To use personnel in key positions who are committed to Jesus Christ. These people will be chosen on the basis of their spiritual sensitivity and capacity to serve in Christ's name.

To provide, through the missionaries and evangelical nationals, a Gospel witness with physical aid, such as evangelistic meetings, adult Bible classes, Bible stories for children, distribution of Scripture portions, and one-to-one evangelism.

To set up and train crisis oriented teams of missionaries from EFMA and IFMA in strategic areas of the world to be prepared for immediate response in times of disaster or emergency need.

To keep administrative costs at an absolute minimum. Previous years' reports indicate 92 cents out of every dollar was sent overseas in services, goods delivered, personnel, and funds.

To make sure that no designated funds are diverted to any use other than the relief programs and projects designated by the donors.

To report accurately situations that deserve help from evangelical Christians in America and not engage in exaggerated claims for the sake of fund raising appeals.

To provide adequate reports of the work being done so that donors can understand what their gifts have accomplished.

To provide annual financial reports and analysis to anyone who may be interested in such information.

BIBLE SCHOOL THROUGH THE EYES OF A SMALL CHILD

This was written by Mrs. Larry Knee, the Director of the Vacation Bible School of the College Corner Brethren Church in Wabash, Indiana and may well have been the conversation between a small boy to his mother after his first opportunity to attend a Vacation Bible School.

Mom, remember when that lady came to enroll me in Bible School. . . . You know that lady that was so afraid of my dog Lassie. I didn't want to go much, but you said it would be good for me.

I was scared when that lady came back to get me. I didn't know anybody there. She taked me in that church we go by a lot, that little white one. Boy! was it ever noisey in there, them kids were yelling—I didn't!!—Not the first day anyway.

Well, when they finally got all those kids quiet, we sang some songs that nobody knowed. Then some lady talked about mursinaries or something and showed us some pictures of colored people and told us how we could help them. Then we had to get quiet again, and close our eyes while some lady prayed to God. Then I got to put my pennies in the basket—on the boys side—cause we **got** to beat the girls in helping those colored people.

Then, Mom, the nicest lady taked my hand and we went downstairs. **Boy,** was she nice to me so I listened when she talked to us. She colored with me, just like you do. She smiles alot and played games with us outside, but mostly she talked to us about Jesus. Mom did you know God made **us**?! He made the grass and the sky too. Did you ever hear of Heaven? my teacher knows all about Heaven, she'll tell you. She knows Jesus too. She said so.

I liked that lady who singed with us too she was always so happy, she taught me them little songs I teached you Mom.

I'll tell you who I really like—That lady with the glasses who gave us Kool-aid and cookies. They were so good mostly those peanut butter ones. She is the best baker, **almost** as good as you.

I was tired when that lady bringed me home. Everybody was tired and hot but they was happy anyway.

Mom, I know you need me here and I am awful busy but, could I go back next year? My new friend Chris wants me to.

MISSIONARY NEWS

NIGERIAN ADVENTURE — GARKIDA

MARABA DA ZUWA (Welcome in your coming)

Mrs. Mark Logan

Part 1

In late 1973, as a part of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of Brethren work in Nigeria, a group from the United States visited the mission field in Nigeria on a "Study Tour." Expressed purposes of the trip were 1) to become personally acquainted with Nigeria, Nigerians, their hopes, dreams and aspirations 2) to see current and previous work of the Brethren with Nigeria and Nigerians 3) to help to celebrate the 50th Jubilee Year of Lardin Gabas Church (Church of Christ in the Sudan, Eastern District, Nigeria) and 4) to participate in meaningful experiences and relationships between peoples of two countries, Nigeria and the United States.

The group, which travelled together for twenty four days, was composed largely of members of the Church of the Brethren but also had along two from our church, Mrs. Mark (Edna) Logan and Miss Veda Liskey. We are pleased to share with you a report of the trip contributed by Mrs. Logan.

(to be continued in the next issue)

These were the words on the cover of the book that was handed to each of us soon after we landed in Kano, Nigeria, on October 4, 1973. It was a mimeographed book of almost 50 pages prepared for us by the missionaries and church leaders. It contained our complete schedule for the 21 days we would be in Nigeria—mostly in the Lardin Gabas Area.

It contained historical facts about the Brethren mission work there. It listed all the churches and their leaders as well as the missionaries.

There were eight pages of helpful hints and health precautions, such as, avoid eating fresh fruit and cold meats. Don't eat very much of any Nigerian food, as it is very different. Drink only the boiled water provided for you or bottled soft drinks. Use your insect repellant and sleep under your mosquito net at night. Don't forget to take your malaria preventive. If you suspect that you have malaria start taking arlin at once, 4 tablets, etc., etc. They gave us the postage rates and explained the money system. There was a section on how to bargain in the market. Never pay the first price asked. It takes 15 minutes to ½ hour to really get a good price. The book also contained some vocabulary helps—ground nuts are peanuts; a lorry is a truck; and a flashlight is a torch. There was a map of Nigeria and the Lardin Gabas Area.

With book in hand, we, 20 interested Brethren, started on a most wonderful experience. We were called The Nigerian Study Tour. We were from various walks of life and our ages varied (one man was 76). But we were all interested in the land and the people known as Lardin Gabas. Only Veda Liskey had been there before.

Lardin Gabas means Eastern Region. It is the name given to The Eastern District of the Church of Christ in the Sudan. The work started 50 years ago by Stover Kulp and Albert Helser. Kulp and Helser travelled two months by boat, train, truck, horseback and by foot and their destination and future were uncertain. The local government was friendly on the surface, but was not anxious for Christians to invade Moslem territory. The people believed in many spirits and lived in great fear of offending them. Trees and hills were their shrines.

We—50 years later—travelled by plane to Geneva, Switzerland, and then on to Kano, Nigeria. We were met here by Larry Elliot and Musa Tarfa, who were our guides and became our friends. Larry is business manager for the mission work. Musa, a native Nigerian, is Business Representative at Jos. They were in a large way responsible for making our trip so great.

As soon as we landed in Nigeria, Veda started looking for familiar faces and listening for some one who spoke the Bura language. In Maidugri we were treated to the first of many welcoming and get-acquainted parties. It was a soft drink party around the pool at our hotel. It was hosted by people living in the city from the Lardin Gabas Area. The Nigerians were beautiful in their long robes and wrap-around skirts.

Veda was so pleased that the men treated their wives as equals socially. It was good to know that these people had kept their faith and were Christian witnesses in the city, miles away from home and in a very different environment.

Nigeria is a country of contrasts which are especially evident in the cities. We were staying in an air-conditioned hotel and drove around the town in modern automobiles. In the streets there were oxcarts, men, women and children carrying everything on their heads (from firewood to pencils). Men pushed and pulled loaded carts. Animals (goats, sheep, chickens) wandered about. Moslems were saying their prayers on the sidewalk, and beggar children followed us about.

On Saturday, October 6th, we left the city by bus for Garkida. A good road goes almost to the village. Veda recalled the bad condition of the road before and the necessity of having to ford the river. We felt like royalty, as people along the way smiled and greeted us. They had never seen so many white faces before. Some had never seen a bus. When they travel it is by lorry (or truck).

We were assigned to guest houses. I shared one with five other ladies. It had two rooms plus a small kitchen and bathroom. It was adequate but not fancy. The mission had their own electric plant. The lights went out at 10 p.m. After depositing our baggage we had our first of many delicious meals with the missionaries. It was the end of the rainy season so we had many fresh vegetables.

There are six missionary families at Garkida, a doctor, a nurse, a builder, a maintenance man, the medical coordinator and the business manager. Dr. Pfaltzgraff is a few miles away at the Leprosarium. We visited with each of them.

After lunch we went to greet the Chief of Garkida. (We met many village chiefs and some district heads as we travelled from village to village.) We were then invited into homes in the village for tea which turned out to be a plateful of yams with meat sauce, bananas and soft drinks. Yams are a big white root vegetable that are pretty tasteless. We did not eat very much and found out this was o.k. If you eat it all they think they did not serve enough. Also, the women and children eat what is left over.

We had supper with the Schrocks. He coordinates the medical program. Although all ministers and most teachers are Nigerians, there is need for medical personnel. In Lardin Gabas Area there is one doctor for every 160,000 persons, one hospital bed for each 4,400 persons. The aim now is to train nurses, midwives, and paramedics and to teach sanitation and good health practices.

Sunday was a very special day. We were sent out two by two to attend church, supplied with a jug of boiled water, Geraldine Plunkett and I went together about ten miles through the bush to the Pelacirома Church. All along the road people were on their way to church. Children ran after our Land Rover.

We met a young teacher who was our interpreter, and were taken into a hut for breakfast. There was guinea corn mush, rice, soft drinks and cookies. A woman brought the food but did not eat with us.

The Church which was nearby was made of mud with a tin roof. The windows had wooden covers, which were propped open. The church was full. As more people arrived the children were put on the dirt floor to make room for adults. The seats were made of mud with no backs, which was convenient as many of the women carried babies on their backs.

The service began with congregational singing. A woman led by singing a line which was repeated by the people. It was a little loud and in a minor key that was not too pleasing to our ears. The minister spoke about Nicodemus and the new birth. A conformation service followed. When a Nigerian wants to become a Christian he must study for a while. Then he is confirmed. He is instructed further before he can be baptized. 20 people (all ages) were confirmed.

We walked about a mile in the hot sun through brush and fields of guinea corn to the river. Seventeen people were baptized as the congregation sang on the riverbank.

Our interpreter and his wife gave us soft drinks (warm, of course) and we talked until time for the communion. For the communion meal each person or family brings food that may be shared with the people around them. Our hostess had prepared for us. Besides the guinea corn mush and rice, we had pork and beans and potato salad. The last two items came out of a can, especially for us.

The feet washing was held outside of the church. The women on one side, the men on the other. There was a little ledge along the side of the church where we sat. The communion bread was made of guinea corn.

We returned to Garkida around five o'clock, just in time for a quick shower before supper with Dr. Derksen. He is in charge of the hospital. In talking of his work, he told us that he sees about five percent of the people that come to the hospital. The others are treated by trained assistants. He says they have some T.B., some diabetes—but very little heart disease. He stresses preventive medicine through clinics out in the villages.

Later in the week we visited the leprosarium, and Dr. Pfaltzgraff talked about the causes and treatment of leprosy. He was driving a jeep donated by UNICEF.

We visited the Garkida school (as we did in many areas). The schools were started by the missionaries but now have been taken over by the government. The people thanked us for giving them schools. There is a great thirst for education, but only one in four children can attend school. There is overcrowding and a teacher shortage. Can you imagine 80 first graders in one room! Many of the teachers have been drafted to take the census.

Before leaving Garkida we visited the site of the first worship service held in Garkida. We gathered under the tree for a short service. Some of the Nigerians recall when the first missionaries came. They were thankful for the light they had brought.

In the evening there was a carry-in supper provided by the school and medical staff. This was a new venture for them and it went very well. The food was plentiful. We felt a warm friendliness with these black brethren that we found everywhere we went in Nigeria.

THE FIRST BRETHREN CONVERTS IN COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA

by Kenneth L. Solomon

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;" (Mark 16:15, 16a) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:" (Acts 2:41a)

On the memorable day of Sunday, April 7, 1974, the day when all Christians recall to mind the so-called "Triumphal Entry" of Jesus into Jerusalem, thirty three persons witnessed a public testimony of His triumphal entry into the lives of two Colombian youth. Thus Jorge (George) Dario Avendano (19 years of age and a University student) and Kenneth Eduardo Barriga (17 year old high school student) became the first Colombian members of The Brethren Church.

The location of the public baptism could not have been more ideal nor the weather more cooperative. The audience of thirty-three persons was also ideal in that it was composed of mostly non-converts who have not as yet yielded to Christ as far as this step of obedience in Baptism.

Some twelve miles northwest of the city of Medellin, on the road to San Pedro Don Martin Velasquez (brother to a neighbor of ours who went along with all his family of four children) has a dairy farm on a plateau surrounded by lovely Colombian mountains. There is a picturesque, narrow valley on his property through which a crystal-clear, cold mountain stream flows rapidly along having just descended over the rocks of the nearby mountain. In a pond provided by a dam of rocks these two first converts were baptized into the Body of Christ by Trine Immersion.

Our First Communion Service in Colombia

At the writing of this report it is 6:30 P.M., April 20, 1974. Just one-half hour ago we arose from the first Lord's Supper that we have been able to have here in our new Brethren Church in Colombia. In the strict sense of the word the Colombian Brethren Church has not been officially organized as yet since we do not have the required number of members to be constituted a "Church." But, since we are now 8 members, we do represent the future Brethren Church of Colombia, South America. For us this has been an emotional and historic moment in our new labors for the Lord in this part of His vineyard. We had hoped to have our first Lord's supper immediately following our first Baptism which took place on Palm Sunday. We had set Good Friday afternoon as the ideal day and time but our two new converts were unable to attend so we postponed it until all of us could be together.

This Do in Remembrance of Me

In the lovely dining room of the home that the U.S. Brethren have made possible for us here in Colombia (by the generous giving to missions) we sat down to celebrate this most meaningful and inspirational service instituted by our Lord. I wish I could have known the thoughts and reactions going through the minds of these two recently baptized Colombian youth as they partook, for the first time, and participated in the three-fold communion service of The Brethren Church.

The Laying On Of Hands

Since the two youth, Jorge Dario Avendano and Kenneth Eduardo Barriga, were baptized in a mountain stream before a group of nearly all non-converts, we decided to have the service of the "Laying on of Hands" just prior to the sitting down to the communion table. As they arose from their knees they each were given a lovely certificate of Baptism and extended the right hand of fellowship, welcoming them into the fellowship of the Brethren.

The Foot Washing Service

The highlight of this part of the service came when, after finishing the washing of Ken's (his new brother in the faith) feet, Jorge did not arise immediately to embrace him and give him the Holy kiss as he had been instructed and shown. Instead he bowed his head in humility and shame to confess to his Colombian brother-in-the-faith that he had harbored certain unworthy thoughts and jealousy in his heart against Ken, and he begged his forgiveness before arising to embrace him and kiss him. I assure you that the eyes of this missionary were quite moist as I witnessed this sincere expression of true contrition, humility and confession—evident fruits of a true conversion.

The Love Feast

No doubt, the symbolic meal we served was quite different than that usually served in Brethren Communion Service in the U.S.A. But the same brotherly love was most evident and we rejoiced in it. The presence of the Lord himself was quite real.

This is my Body, This is my Blood

Having just recently celebrated Holy Week, the passion of our Lord was fresh in our minds. All over Medellin religious pictures were being shown in the theaters and all the churches, Catholic and Protestant, were having special meetings in celebration of that great and most meaningful week of our Lord's earthly ministry.

Now, as we came to that third and most significant part of the Lord's Supper we were especially thrilled to be able to introduce these two new converts to this that has meant so much in our own lives down through the years since our own "First Communion." I'm confident that it moved them deeply and made a lasting impression on their minds. May the inspiration and blessings of this their "First" Communion never lessen but only increase each time they celebrate this "In Memory of Him," "Showing Forth His death 'til He Come Again."

The Closing Hymn

For this we chose Psalm 9 that has been put to music in Spanish. In the King James version of the Holy Scriptures it reads: "I WILL PRAISE THEE, O LORD, WITH MY WHOLE HEART; I WILL SHEW FORTH ALL THY MARVELOUS WORKS. I WILL BE GLAD AND REJOICE IN THEE: I WILL SING PRAISE TO THY NAME, O THOU MOST HIGH." We all certainly had special reasons for praising the Lord as we terminated this "First Brethren Communion" service in Colombia, South America, with our two new brothers in the Lord, Ken and Jorge (George). (Maybe the readers will recognize the coincidence in the fact that the first names of these two first converts are the same first names of the Solomon brothers, Reverend George and Reverend Ken Solomon) **Brethren Praise the Lord with us!!!** Rejoice in His faithfulness and in this the answer of many prayers.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



LEARNING CENTER WORKSHOPS

Although I'm writing this column in mid-June, as you read it our "northern" LEARNING CENTER WORKSHOPS are in full swing.

Each Workshop consists of two separate sessions (2½ hours each)—usually on two different evenings in each church. This allows time for both **experiencing** and explaining a Learning Center environment and then (in the second session) practice in **developing** materials for your own church programs.

There are plenty of opportunities to handle the tape recorders and headsets, look closely at literature, play games, ask questions, etc.

Naturally we can't report on how things are going . . . that will come later. But here's the schedule again as a reminder of this aspect of our outreach from Brethren House.

Goshen, Indiana (July 26 and 27)
PERU, Indiana (July 28 and 29)
BRYAN, Ohio (July 30 and 31)
ELKHART (Winding Waters), Indiana (August 2 and 3)
LOUISVILLE, Ohio (August 5 and 6)
CANTON, Ohio (August 7 and 8)
SMITHVILLE, Ohio (August 9 and 10)

By your support of Brethren House through the National Mission Board, YOU are having a part in these Learning Center HAPPENINGS.

—Phil

NEW Learning Center RESOURCES

In previous news items for the **Brethren House BEAT** we have listed information about our

—60 Minute Tape Recording and Guide Sheets, and
—Learning Center Slides and Taped Narration.

These two items are **no longer available through Brethren House.**

But that's good news, not bad news! We revised, updated and re-recorded those materials. The Slide Set became a Filmstrip and the Guide Sheets were printed, instead of mimeographed. Soon these materials with a new face will be distributed by the National Teacher Education Project in Scottsdale, Arizona, under these titles:

(1) THE PURPLE TREE, "Freedom to Learn"—(Filmstrip and tape)
(2) LEARNING CENTERS MAKE SENSE (And Here's Why)—(Tape and Worksheets)

They are a part of a set of Learning Centers resources which also includes another tape presentation and a book.

For full information and prices, write to:

NATIONAL TEACHERS EDUCATION PROJECT
6947 East MacDonald Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253

Tell them "Bonnie, Jean and Phil sent you!"



PROCLAIMING GOD'S ETERNAL TRUTH

This is the moderator's address presented at the Indiana District of Brethren Churches conference held at the Brethren Retreat June 13-15, 1974 at Shipshewana, Indiana.

Rev. Myron W. Dodds is pastor of the Brethren Church in Bryan, Ohio, President of The Brethren Publishing Company, a member of the Stewardship Committee of The Brethren Church.



by Myron W. Dodds

Its time to consider the role of the church in a changing world. Changes are taking place with breathless rapidity. The one word that seems to characterize our society is "change." Ours is a revolutionary age. In an age of revolution there is always change, but what makes our age so different is the rate of change. Because we live in an electronic age, the acceleration of change cannot be calculated. Communication is now instant. Jackie Kennedy Onassis learned of the shooting of her brother-in-law in Los Angeles through a telephone call that she received in New York from a relative in London within five minutes of the event. Some of the words heard in recent years that reflect change are abortion, witchcraft, satanism, overpopulation and energy. Alvin Toffler in **Future Shock** says "The whole world is a fast breaking story."

Perhaps more basic are the changes that are occurring in ways of thinking. Our culture is now dominated by a determinism which views man as a machine and excludes the possibility of a personal God. Contemporary philosophy removes morals which results in a relativism with no ethical responsibility. We hear of a secular existentialism which would have us believe that there are no absolute truths and no authoritative standards. Such would tell us that everything should be based on existence and experience. The slogan for such thinking is "Do your own thing!"

The church has also been forced to deal with change. It might be a matter of spiritual fads. Prior to the current fad regarding "exorcism" it was the "charismatic" fad and before that it was the "anti-established" church fad. Many terms reflect changes in church thinking and programming. We hear of neo-pentecostalism, gospel rock, body life, Jesus freaks, urban ministries, secular theology and the list goes on and on. Some changes in the church appear to be more basic and consequential. During the past year one church group following the tradition of John Calvin broke away from the larger group to form a new presbytery citing a strong reliance on Scripture and the Westminister confession. Another church body following in the tradition of Martin Luther is divided into "Moderates" and "Conservatives" with questions relating to the position of Scripture and doctrinal standards. Harold Lindsell[1] would tell us that the true Christian is now dealing with apostasy and that an anti-Christian mentality has infected most of the institutions of the church.

Irregardless of our personal desires the church must examine its attitude toward change in spiritual matters. We might do well to examine our motivation in change. The captain of an airplane in trouble asked some of the passengers to jettison themselves to lighten the load. A Frenchman leaped out first shouting, "Vive La France." An Englishman followed with "God save the Queen!" But the American, next in line, turned pale and backed away from the door. At this point the captain whispered something in his ear. Then the American promptly leaped out the door. A passenger asked the pilot "What did you whisper to him?" The captain replied, "I said, 'Go ahead and try it; it's new.'"

Carl Henry[2] states that "The purposelessness of the present generation is a consequence of its myopic concentration on change as if it were progress and its intellectual indifference to enduring concerns. The contemporary liberal spirit may not be of one mind about the present world

and its possibilities, but it tends to be mindless concerning objective truth and unchanging good. Not only has good lost its identity and sin its seriousness for the products of this mentality, but life itself has lost any sure goal and destiny."

Perhaps as Brethren we may feel closer to the attitude toward change as reflected in the NAE. From the reports of the 1973 convention we hear such comments as these: ". . . we hold as sacred too many things which are mere custom. Evangelicals need to be sensitive to change to reach men and women for Christ . . ." ". . . the status quo is dead . . . stated services on Sunday and Wednesday in our churches . . . will not change our country or our world."

In a revolutionary age the Christian must relate change to a proper basis. The Christian does not merely ask, "Does it work?" but "Is it true?" Our actions must not merely be based on subjective experience but the objective truth of God's Word. Too many times we Christians follow the relativistic thought patterns of the world's thinking (Rom. 12:1-2). Too often Scripture and biblical doctrine take a back seat to the mind of the present age.[3] In a secular age a Christian must be careful in responding to voices of the day. It's like the pigs that came for feed when the farmer pounded his cane on the board fence. One day a visitor came to the farm and asked the farmer why the pigs were making such a rumpus. He explained how he pounded the cane on the fence at feeding time. "Now those woodpeckers pounding the trees are driving them crazy." Too many times we listen to the wrong voices.

Sometimes we say that "The church must be open to change" but let's make certain that the change is desirable. There is a great deal of change and motion in the church—doctrinal conceptions, worship and life-styles. The gyroscope is a reminder that there are different types of motion. The gyroscope, consisting of a shaft and wheel, may be set in motion with a thread. Even though the base is tilted it will remain perfectly vertical, tipping neither to the right or left. This is stable motion. Unstable motion would be demonstrated by a car skidding out of control or one's first attempt to ride a bicycle. Useful motion must have equilibrium. Not all changes are desirable. Some things should not change. Some things do not change. Why change the number facts that $2 + 2 = 4$ and $3 \times 3 = 9$? Why change H_2O as the formula for water? There is no valid reason for changing certain factors in the spiritual realm. Lenore Romney (wife of former Michigan governor, George Romney) recently said in a radio interview, "The world is being torn apart because there are no longer any unchanging moral concepts." God does not change. "I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6). Jesus Christ does not change. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). The basic nature of the church does not change. "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). The Bible does not change. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever" (Isa. 40:8). The purpose of the Church does not change. "Preach the word" (II Tim. 4:2). "Preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

Evangelicals need to be sensitive to change to reach men and women for Christ. . . .

It's amazing what changes occur when the Bible is preached. Few men have changed the course of history. Martin Luther was such a man. He changed history because he went back to the Bible and taught it. Alexander Mack was such a man. Changes came because he went back to the Bible and applied its teachings to his day. If the church is going to be effective in our day it must proclaim God's eternal truth. It can proclaim God's eternal truth by following certain suggestions.

I. THE CHURCH MUST UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF GOD'S ETERNAL TRUTH

One day a group of boys decided to have a game of softball. After rounding up enough players to form two teams, they were ready to begin. With every fielder in place, the basemen all positioned, and the batter at the plate, the pitcher called out, "Where's the ball?" Much to everyone's disappointment, it was discovered that nobody had thought to bring one They were just about to break up and go their separate ways when the catcher yelled, "Wait a minute, guys; let's not go home yet! Why don't we just go ahead without it?" Can you imagine such a game? Of course not! It would be impossible to play! This is really a parable depicting many people in religious circles today who are trying to "play ball" with those who deny essential doctrines. Unless they are united on the fundamentals of the faith, the most important ingredient is missing. They are like the youngster in our story who thought he could play without a ball. One essential doctrine of faith concerns our belief in the Scriptures.

As Christians we do well to examine the teachings of Jesus regarding the Book we refer to as the Bible. Jesus said to the Father, "Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17). Christ was emphatic in His assessment of the Scriptures: "For verily, I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matt. 5:18). "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). ". . . The scripture cannot be broken . . ." (John 10:35). Jesus believed the Bible to be true.

The Brethren Church has always held a high view regarding the Scriptures. Alexander Mack, Henry Holsinger, C. F. Yoder and J. Allen Miller were all men with human limitations but they held in common the view that the Bible was indeed the very Word of God. Lowmaster has summarized the Brethren view of Scripture in these words:[4] "From the . . . resume of Brethren his-

tory it is evident that the one facet of Brethren belief which remains the same today as in her founding in 1708 is found in the Progressive Brethren Church, that is, trust in the integrity, infallibility and sufficiency of the Bible. Through the divisions that have ruptured the Church and seen new denominations rise, embracing humanistic authority and rationalisms, the Progressive Brethren have been unwilling to admit to any other authority or interpretation than the clear Word of God. . . . Much has been said about the authority of the Scriptures in Brethren life. The strength of this authority lies in the Brethren conviction that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, completely reliable and trustworthy in every part, both New Testament and Old."

Because the Bible possesses authority in spiritual matters the Brethren has sought to put its teachings into practice. (At the General Conference of 1916 a resolution was passed stating that "the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, as originally given of God, are the infallible record of the perfect, final and authoratitive revelation of God's will, althogether sufficient in themselves as a rule of faith and practice."[5]) Following the tradition of the Pietist the Brethren have sought to study the Bible and order their lives by it. In the Brethren fellowship there has always been a strong emphasis on obedience to the Word. (This is illustrated by the comment of one Brethren regarding Matthew 28:19-20. He said, "Since we Brethren believe that the New Testament is inspired of God; and since we use the New Testament as our creed; knowing that all Scripture was given for our benefit, we believe in the above quoted Scripture and practice it to the 'letter'."[6]) In our day when the emphasis is on "doing your own thing" some may accuse us of being legalistic in our desire to be faithful to the teachings of Scripture. But let us remember that legalism is a matter of putting man made rules, traditions and concerns ahead of God's Word. In seeking to avoid the trap of legalism let us not fall into the trap of antinomianism—the doctrine that teaches the moral law is not binding on the Christian as a rule of life. Our motivation for such obedience ought to be based on love. Jesus says, "If ye love me keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Jesus also says, "if thou would enter into life keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17).

The Scriptures are relevant for our day. ". . . whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our instruction . . ." (Rom. 10: 4). The Scriptures have a definite message. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). It is the scriptural message concerning Christ that leads to salvation. ". . . the holy scriptures . . . are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 4:15).

Much is being said in our day concerning the value of human experience. It is said that "experience is the best teacher." In the Brethren tradition experience to be valid must be supported by the teaching of Scripture. Our day has given much emphasis to the work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God has given of His Spirit so that we might be guided into truth. But such guidance can only be valid as it is in agreement with the Scriptures. Lowmaster states that "It has always been the philosophy of the Progressive Brethren that inner forms of faith are only valid as they may be justified by the written Word."[7]

Our motto is, "The Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible." But surely our faith in the Scripture is more than a motto. Our forefathers sought to order their lives by it. The Living Bible renders Hebrews 4:12, "For whatever God says to us is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest sword, cutting swift and deep into our innermost thoughts and desires . . . exposing what we really are." When the Bible is read, studied and practiced something happens. The old greatness of the English people was built around the Bible. Green's **Short History of the English People** bears testimony to the power of the Bible. In the eighth chapter, which covers the twenty years from 1583 to 1603, J. G. Green tells of the great moral reformation that swept over Britain. "England became the people of a book, and that book was the Bible. It was yet the one English book which was familiar to every Englishman. It was read in churches and read at home, and everywhere its words, as they fell on ears which custom had not deadened, kindled a startling enthusiasm."

If we believe that the Bible is true, if we believe God's Word is eternal, if we believe it is alive and has the power to transform lives, we should be studying it for ourselves and sharing it with others.

Something similar can be noted in the history of the Brethren Church. In the decade following 1910 the modernist attack on the Bible had repercussions in the Brethren Church. This resulted in the preaching of fundamental Bible doctrine which led to evangelism. The preaching of God's Word lead to repentance and the salvation of souls.[8]

If we believe that the Bible is true, if we believe God's Word is eternal, if we believe it is alive and has the power to transform lives, we should be studying it for ourselves and sharing it with others.

II. TO PROCLAIM GOD'S ETERNAL TRUTH WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES

One of the basic ideas in both the Old Testament and the New Testament is that of the people of God. The Scriptures make room for a necessary distinction between those who are God's people and those who are not. Israel, by the choice of God, became His covenant people, thereby separate from all others. God says, "I am the Lord your God which have separated you from all other people . . . and ye shall be holy unto me: for I

the Lord am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye may be mine" (Lev. 29:24, 26). Israel was called for a purpose. God says: "I the Lord have called thee in righteousness . . . and give thee . . . for a light of the Gentiles" (Isa. 42:6). The church has a similar calling from God. I Peter 2:9 (Living Bible) declares "you have been chosen by God himself—you are priests of the King, you are holy and pure, you are God's very own—all this so that you may show to others how God called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

The church that is going to be used by God in the world must be holy. The historian Green, who noted the effect of the Bible on sixteenth century England would not recognize the church of today. Although the majority of the English are on the membership rolls, the central fact of church life in England is the emptiness of the churches. Modernism and liberalism have emptied the churches. First the theologians, then the ministers and finally the people lost faith in the Bible and the life to come. The "fear of God" departed from the people. Personal morality declined. The satisfaction of sensual appetites became the primary objective of life. The permissive society, characterized by alcohol, gambling and sexual license, developed. Loyalty to the union or club transcended loyalty to God, righteousness and the nation. Church administrators tried to substitute social criticism and service for evangelism. To the overwhelming majority of Britons the church has become irrelevant.

Studies in church growth reveal that there are American churches which have a vitality and experience increases in membership and attendance.[9] These churches possess certain characteristics. Commitment leads to a willingness to sacrifice social status and possessions. Missionary zeal leads to eagerness to share one's faith. These churches have assurance that their doctrines are true. The membership displays a conformity of belief and practice. The churches with these characteristics are displaying spiritual life and growth. A church without such spiritual life is like a "coke" that has lost the fizz.

The one called to proclaim God's truth as a minister has special responsibility in preparing himself. In the Old Testament (Num. 6:1-8) the one set apart for special service in the vow of the Nazarite separated himself unto the Lord which also included separation from wine and cutting of the hair. The one called a Christian minister is also to be set aside by his conduct. I Timothy 3:1-3, 7 says, "It is a true saying that if a man wants to be a pastor he has a good ambition. For a pastor must be a good man whose life cannot be spoken against. He must have only one wife, and he must be hard working and thoughtful, orderly and full of good deeds. He must not be a drinker or quarrelsome, but he must be gentle and kind, and not be one who loves money. Also, he must be well spoken of by people outside the church—those who aren't Christians—so that Satan can't trap him with many accusations, and leave him without freedom to lead his flock." The one called to be God's minister has a special responsibility. He will not engage in activities that will hinder the faith of others.

In preparing ourselves to proclaim God's truth there is the necessity of considering our relationship to the world. The church is not to be monastically withdrawn from the world. It is to be involved with love and compassion in the affairs of men. But it is called to keep a pure heart and a single eye. Our innermotivation, our goals, our desires, are to be transformed. Our first loyalties to the Lord Jesus Christ are to be preserved. We are not to be conformed to the world but are to be renewed in the spirit of our mind (Rom. 12:1-2). Our objective is the penetration of the world with the Gospel. Jesus used figures of penetration in relation to the Gospel—salt, light, keys, bread, water, leaven and fire.

Leighton Ford[10] indicates that in seeking to reach the world with the Gospel we have to avoid two extremes: **isolation** from the world and **imitation** of the world. This infers that there must be both an attitude of separation from the world and its sin, and identification of the world and its need. The Christian and the church will use every means of communicating the Gospel that is not contrary to biblical teaching.

III. THE CHURCH MUST PROCLAIM GOD'S ETERNAL TRUTH BY IMPLEMENTING THE MEANS

However, before the means can be implemented effectively, there must be an understanding of the priority of proclamation. You say, "Evangelism is the most important thing we do, isn't it?" No, it isn't! The most important thing we do is what we spend the most time doing. The thing on which we spend the most time has the priority. Check the calendar of your church for a week. In the average church more time will be spent on members than others. Bob Harrington tells a story about a lighthouse keeper. He had one job—to keep the light burning. He even had an emergency vat he could use if the main vat ran out of fuel.

One day there was a knock at his door. A man in his motorboat was out of gas. The lighthouse keeper felt sorry for him. He took some fuel out of his emergency vat and gave it to the man.

The next day he had another caller who needed fuel. He had heard how kind and helpful the lighthouse keeper was.

The lighthouse keeper became the most popular man in the community. They made him president of the Chamber of Commerce. He became known as the most benevolent man in town. Everyone knew that if he had trouble and could make it to the lighthouse he was in safe hands.

Late one night there was a ship in distress. The keeper awakened to see the light going out in the tower. He raced down the staircase and switched the turn-key to the emergency vat. It was empty! That night a ship crashed on the rocks at the foot of the light house.

It made no difference that he had helped many people in lesser ways. The fact was that a ship crashed because he had failed to do the one thing he was there to do: he had failed to keep a light reaching out into the darkness.

The Bible says, "Ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the Word of life" (Phil. 2:15-16).

(*continued on next page*)

Commitment leads to a willingness to sacrifice social status and possessions. Missionary zeal leads to eagerness to share one's faith.

We are to be torchbearers for Jesus, and never let our lights go out. Our torch of light is the Bible and its message of the salvation that is in Christ.

We have failed to understand that evangelism is not merely the making of converts out of sinners but also the making of disciples out of converts. New converts must be helped to grow from the burping state to a maturity where they are capable of spiritual reproduction.

Statistical reports should reveal something concerning the priority of evangelism. The number of additions for various years is interesting. In 1915 there were 2873 additions; in 1933—1129 additions; in 1972—1065 additions. The latest statistical report indicates a slight gain in membership. We trust that this reveals more than the fact that the decline in church attendance which American churches have been experiencing in the last fifteen years has now reached a plateau. In any case the statistical reports indicate that evangelism must have a new priority. No longer can the church depend on Sunday preaching and a yearly evangelistic campaign for evangelistic outreach.

If the means of proclamation are going to be implemented someone is going to have to accept the responsibility. Perhaps the first one to accept such responsibility is the Pastor. He is commanded, "do the work of an evangelist" (II Tim. 4:5). Any true Pastor will be concerned with the salvation of souls. But one topical Bible lists over forty duties for which the minister is responsible. If the job is going to be done someone besides the minister must accept responsibility.

Laymen must also accept the job of evangelism. Leighton Ford tells of a study made by the Latin American Mission in which this conclusion was reached: "The growth of any movement is in direct proportion to its ability to mobilize its entire membership for continuous evangelistic action."[11] We are reminded of the two backwoodsmen who rode on a train for the first time. They became hungry and finally a man came through their car selling bananas. They had never seen or eaten bananas before but because of their hunger they bought some. Zeke took a bite and at that moment the train moved into a tunnel. Zeke said, "Leroy, don't eat that banana! Mine just made me blind." We have a blind spot when it comes to evangelism. "That's why we pay the preacher." But this isn't getting the job done and it isn't biblical. Acts 8:4 is referring to the laity when it says, "they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the Word." This is a matter of dedication and consecration. It's like the boy who went to college. Other boys asked who he was and what he was going to do. (His reply was with a speech impediment) "My name's Joe. I'm going to be a preacher." The boys asked him other questions to get him to talk. One day a campus beauty went by. Joe said, "I'm going to marry her. I'm going to be a preacher. I'm going to ask her for a date." Later Joe met the beauty on a path, while the other boys listened behind the bushes. In distinct words he said to her, "Will you have a date with me?" "Would you say that again?" she replied. He repeated his question again plainly. "Have you been practicing?" she asked. "Yes, I went off into the woods and practiced 'Will you have a date with me?'" This I did until I had it down perfect." They went off arm in arm. Joe had something he desired and he was willing to work for it. In a similar way effective evangelism is going to require extensive effort.

In our day we have heard of various types of evangelism—crusade evangelism and saturation evangelism has been the main types since 1950. Now we are hearing of another type of evangelism referred to as church growth. Church growth believes that unfruitfulness is a curable disease.[12] Such a disease can be remedied by research, treatment and care. Such a program will require at least three things:

1) Full obedience to the Word of God and the Will of God.
2) Pragmatism—we must use whatever means God provides to reach people for Christ.
3) Optimism—Christ said, "I will build my church" and we must believe it.

The Brethren Church has a divine mission to proclaim God's eternal truth. A missionary from Malaya related how he saw the Queen Mary steal secretly into the port at Singapore during World War II to be converted into a troop ship. It may be necessary to convert the church from a weekend country club resort to a drill ground for Christian soldiers.

It is time for a change. Let's make certain that any change is in accord with God's will. There is a need for a new demonstration of the power of God's Word. There is a need for a new spiritual dedication of the people of God in the Brethren Church—both ministers and laity. There is a need for a new urgency in the implementation of effective means of evangelistic outreach.

1 Harold Lindsell, **The World, the Flesh and the Devil,** pp. 209-210.

2 Carl Henry, "From Here to Utopia," (**Christianity Today,** April 12, 1974, pp. 25-26).

3 Cf. "Have Christians Lost Their Minds" (Editorial in Christianity Today, Sept. 14, 1973, p. 30).

4 Charles Lowmaster, "The Brethren Position on the Inspiration and Authority of the Scriptures," March 12, 1971, pp. 16, 18.

5 George Baer, **Brethren Emphasis Lessons,** p. 9, 1941.

6 Spencer Gentle, "The Ordinance of Baptism," Woman's Outlook, pp. 6-9, Jan. 1957.

7 Lowmaster, **Ibid.,** p. 5.

8 Albert Ronk, **History of the Brethren Church,** pp. 312-313.

9 Cf. Dean M. Kelley, **Why Conservative Churches Are Growing.**

10 Leighton Ford, **The Christian Persuader,** pp. 72-73.

11 **Ibid.,** p. 47.

12 Cf. C. Peter Wagner, " 'Church Growth': More Than a Man, a Magazine, a School, a Book," (Christianity Today, Dec. 7, 1973, pp. 11-14.

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR AUGUST

Where Are The Dead Sea Scrolls?





It has been 25 years since the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered by a shepherd boy while tending his goats on the northeastern shore of the Dead Sea. They were copied by the Essenes in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages and hid in jars nearly 2000 years ago! Nearly every book of the Old Testament (or part of each book) has been unearthed. The oldest scroll is a complete text of Isaiah.

These scrolls have been studied intensively by archaeologists, philologists and scriptural scholars from all over the world and have been hailed as "the most important discovery of our age" and dramatic proof of the authenticity of the Bible.

The Dead Sea Scrolls are now housed in the Shrine of the Book—a section of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The Isaiah scroll is stretched around a drum at the base of a fountain. If you are visiting the Holy Land, you may step inside the Museum and see them.

We are glad the scrolls were discovered; but altogether apart from such evidence, we know from the Bible itself that: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," or is God-breathed! (2 Timothy 3:16) And again: ". . . the Spirit of Christ which was in them (the prophets) did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." (1 Peter 1:11)

MY BIBLE

"This Holy Book I'd rather own
Than all the gold and gems,
That e'er in monarch's coffers shone
Than all their diadems!
Nay, were the seas one chrysolite,
The earth one golden ball,
And diamonds all the stars of night,
This Book is worth them all!"

news... from the Brethren

Memorials



CHAPPUIES

Ada Chappuies, 84, passed away Monday, June 17, 1974. She was a member of the Bryan, Ohio First Brethren Church. Memorial services were conducted by Rev. Dodds at Watts Funeral Home, Bryan, on Thursday, June 20th with interment at Shiffler Cemetery.

* * *

SWAIN

Mrs. Laura F. Swain, 83, died June 1 after a years illness. She was a long time member of the First Brethren Church of Oakville, Indiana, and a former custodian. Francis, her husband of 67 years, lives quietly in Oakville. Also surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Guy (Ruth) Shafer, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Services were conducted by the undersigned. Interment was in Miller Cemetery, Middletown.

Rev. James L. Fields

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Sarasota, Florida—3 by baptism

Williamstown, Ohio—3 by baptism, 4 by letter

Weddings



HOOBLER - DIETRICH

Miss Jean Allison Hoobler and William Hans Dietrich Jr. exchanged wedding vows April 20 in Trinity Brethren Church with the Rev. John T. Byler officiating. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. David A. Hoobler of 510 E. Gorgas St. and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Dietrich of 6095 Easton St. N.E., all of Louisville.

The couple resides at 1023 N. Chapel, Apt. 5, Louisville.

They are members of Trinity Brethren Church, Canton, Ohio.

* * *

GARRISON - MILLER

Jerilyn Garrison and Richard Miller were married June 1st in the Burlington Church. Jerilyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Garrison of Burlington. She is also a member of the Burlington Church. They will live in Lafayette, Indiana where she attends Purdue as a Junior next year.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson, 50th anniversary June 12th. Members of Masontown, Pennsylvania Brethren Church.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Corner, Fostoria, Ohio, observed their 59th Wedding Anniversary May 29th. They belong to the First Brethren Church, Fremont, Ohio.

EVANGELIST BUD HAMEL TRAVELS NORTH AGAIN



Dr. J. D. (Bud) Hamel, pastor of the Sarasota, Florida First Brethren Church, evangelist and radio minister on the West Coast of Florida, held a six day revival service in Hagerstown, Maryland Brethren Church with pastor John B. Mills; and a seven day revival service in Mathias, West Virginia which was sponsored by the Greater Mathias Ministerial Association. The services in Mathias were held nightly in the High School Gymnasium. The evangelist also had the privilege of preaching at the Mathias Brethren church at the morning worship service on Mother's Day.

The spiritual results of the meetings were 200 decisions with 15 first time confessions and others for renewal, rededication, and revival. Evangelist Hamel also had the joy of attending the Southeastern W.M.S. and Laymen's Conference which was held at the St. James Brethren Church. Guest speakers were Mrs. Carl Barber and Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Mark Logan, Jr. The evangelist was invited to give a testimony about the Florida work at the meeting, which had 140 in attendance.

While in Hagerstown the evangelist taught a class in soul winning with 46 in attendance; was the guest speaker at the downtown Hagerstown Lion's Club as a guest of Mr. L. M. Johns with 85 in attendance; and a Women's Bible Coffee Class with 29 in attendance.

Pastors attending the Hagerstown meeting were Rev. Robert Keplinger; Rev. Carl Barber; Rev. James Naff; Rev. Rex McConahay; and Rev. Robert Fester of the State Line United Brethren Church.

The Mathias, West Virginia "New Life Crusade in Christ" was sponsored by the Greater Mathias Ministerial Association with Rev. C. Y. Gilmer, pastor of the Mathias Brethren Church (Rev. and Rrs. Gilmer attended every meeting with a round-trip of over eighty miles); Rev. Jesse Pittman (two churches which include the Crab Run Church of the Breethren;) Rev. Wendell Mathias, Church of the Brethren; Rev. Ward Halderman, New Dale Church of the Brethren; Rev. Borden Brady, President and Pastor of four United Methodist churches; Rev. Henry Dunsmore and Rev. Dave May of the Assembly of God; Rev. Harley Good, (Song Director) and Rev. Ray Emswiler of the Mennonite churches; and Rev. Durwood Hart, pastor of six Methodist churches in the mountains. Mr. and Mrs. George Williams (Florida winter residents) from Johnstown, Pa., attended both revivals driving 200 miles round trip. We were also visited by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Robey from Burke, Va., former members of the Sarasota Brethren Church, and Missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Mark Logan, Jr. who attended our Mathias meeting.

While in Maryland the evangelist had the privilege of staying in the parsonage with the Mills family and in Mathias to be the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Vance and spend a one nighter with the Rev. C. Y. Gilmers in Harrisonburg, Va. I also want to commend Pastor John Mills and his people for their excellent advertising with over 3500 cards mailed and hundreds of doors reached to give special emphasis for attending the meeting in Maryland.

All the counselors at the Mathias meeting were trained in how to use Billy Graham's Bible study booklet, "Knowing Christ," and a duplicate record of the decisions at the altar were given to the various pastors of the churches in the community. Mrs. Jim (Annabelle) Vance and Jane Fitzwater, organist and pianist, are also to be commended for their extra labor beyond the call of duty during the Mathias meeting. During the services the evangelist presented magic object lessons for the children and played the trumpet during the congregational singing. The programs featured a variety of Gospel singing artists, and a volunteer choir from the community for Mathias. A visitation program was carried on by the evangelist and enthusiastic pastors. Working with these great "men of faith" was a personal thrilling experience. The members of these churches were very gracious and generous with their involvement in the work of Christ in the meetings.

Sunday, May 19th, Mrs. (Jean) Hamel joined the evangelist for the graduation of their daughter Joan Ruth, with honors, from Ashland College. June 7-28 the evangelist with daughter Janet Sue are planning an evangelistic outreach and program in Colombia, South America, our newest mission field.

Beloved, these are great days for revival, and every Brethren church is urged to make these days of aggressive evangelism for Christ. People today are willing to listen! Won't you tell them about Jesus?

—Sarasota, Florida



CHURCH NEWS



MEXICO CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 85th BIRTHDAY

On Sunday, March 10, 1974, the Mexico, Indiana, First Brethren Church celebrated its 85th anniversary. Pastor Gerald Barr spoke on "The Significance of the Church Today" during the Worship Service. Following the morning services, a fellowship dinner was held at noon. During the afternoon, the "Morning Star" from Kokomo presented a program of music, inspiration and testimony. There was a fine turnout for all of the services.



In 1888, through the efforts of Mrs. J. O. Fisher, the only member of the Brethren Church at the time, Rev. J. H. Swihart and A. A. Cober were secured to preach at the Mexico school house.

In 1889, a revival meeting was held and as a result an organization with seventeen members was formed on March 10, 1889.

Soon after, the Mexico church was divided into two branches, the other at Corinth. Three original members transferred to Corinth leaving fourteen to lay the foundation of the present church which has a history of 85 years.

Officers were elected on May 15, 1891, at the John Hood home. On September 19, 1891, a business session was held for the planning for a building to worship in. Every member and many friends began immediately to grade and excavate for the basement and foundation.

The building progressed through the winter and was completed on May 29, 1892, when it was dedicated by Rev. J. Allen Miller of Ashland, Ohio. The original building cost was $2,500 and nearly $1,000 was subscribed on the date of dedication.

In June, 1892, the Sunday School was organized. In October that year, the Women's Missionary Society was formed. At the close of 1897, 67 members were on the church roll.

By 1905 the church was already giving its share to the African and South American missions which it still supports today.

In 1910, about 50 members asked to transfer their membership to the newly-organized church at Denver. The church then lost about 40 of its members on June 14, 1914, to the newly-developed Center Chapel Church.

The new fields at Denver and Peru over a three-year period saw a loss of about 100 members from the Mexico church, the greatest reduction in membership the congregation has ever experienced.

In 1919, about 100 more members were received into the church under the pastorate of Rev. L. W. Ditch, the most added to the church roll under a single pastor.

In 1924, the dedication of the classrooms and basement were made to meet the increase in attendance.

Still hard at work, in 1958 the church called the Rev. Floyd Sibert to full time service. He served until he retired in December, 1971, more than 13 years.



Rev. & Mrs. Gerald A. Barr. Linda holding Wendy Kay and Rev. Barr with son, Gerald Alan Jr.

Rev. Barr has been serving the church since July, 1972.

This past January, the church honored three of its former Sunday School teachers: Harold Donaldson, 45 years, and Mrs. Harold Donaldson and Mrs. Joseph Berkheiser for 30 years each. It is through the work of such faithful servants that the Mexico Church has continued for years. Also in January, Rev. Barr and Rev. Duane Dickson ordained Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bargerhuff as deacon and deaconess, a capacity in which they serve with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Donaldson and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Balsbaugh.

The Mexico Church praises the Lord for the past 85 years and prays that we might be found faithful in His service in the years to come.

Article submitted by Linda Barr with historical data being provided from a Historical Feature written by Mrs. Joseph Berkheiser and published in the March 8, 1974 issue of the Peru Indiana Tribune. (Editor's Note.)

SMITHVILLE BRETHREN CHURCH

May 19, our Sunday morning services were held at Camp Bethany. The Lord cooperated with us in the weather department, so a beautiful day was enjoyed by all (nearly 140 people).

The Youth (22 of them) presented the folk musical "It's All About Love" and what an experience this was! Briefly, the narrative is about a "self-made man"—with only a little help from an inheritance and his father's governmental position—who makes it big but could care less about his fellow man and this thing called "love." "Bah, love, who needs it?" is his favorite line. But his financial world crumbles and all he has remaining is Christ and His love. He accepts this love and consequently, even still in poverty, he becomes rich!

Dinner was no place for dieters!! Vegetables, salads and non-caloric desserts were in abundance. Helen Hershberger, Thelma Bodager and Eric and Barb Mast were responsible for the ham, rolls and beverage. If anyone went hungry, it was because they were too shy to ask for anything.

The afternoon found people doing everything the Camp is designed to do. Some sat and talked, some fished, some swam, some relaxed and some played volleyball and softball. Of all those activities, the fish were the ones who enjoyed the afternoon the most—as they enjoyed a "worm banquet."

This was definitely a good day and there should certainly be a repeat in the near future.

Mary Ellen Drushal, Church Secretary

BURLINGTON BRETHREN CHURCH

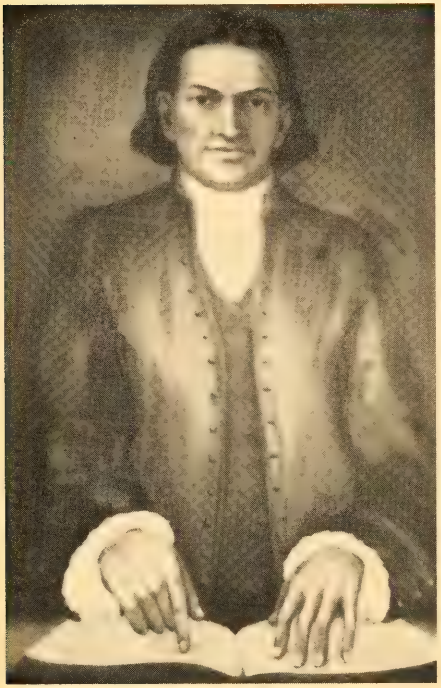
The Burlington Brethren Church held a Father and Son Banquet June 11th. The Butt Family from Peru were on the program with testimony by songs and Charlie Brown. Terry Ladico gave a short talk on courage. A delicious meal was enjoyed by all. Fifty-seven were present.

Terry Ladico, who has just graduated from Ashland College, is spending the summer at the Burlington Brethren Church as a Youth Minister. He will be directing the Youth and overseeing the Junior Church, and assisting on the bus route. Also, filling in for Pastor Curtright whenever he's away.

Mrs. Carl Sherir,
Corresponding Secretary



NORTHERN OHIO
250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Alexander Mack

Two hundred and twenty Brethren from the Northern Ohio Brethren Churches gathered at Smithville June 4, 1974 to celebrate the 250th birthday of the Brethren Church in America. This is the third such celebration, Southern Ohio and the Indiana District being the other two. In these three celebrations nearly a thousand Brethren have praised God for a PROUD HERITAGE and have been challenged to pray for a GREAT FUTURE. God willing there will be more such celebrations.

The evening of inspiration and fellowship was led by Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, Vice President, Ashland Theological Seminary. Dr. Shultz read Scripture and gave a brief commentary pertaining to the various portions of the meal.

In the style of the Eastern cultures the unique **Friendship Meal** patterned after the times of Jesus, constituted the entire evening at Smithville. Interspersed with the meal were musical numbers by Kay Cline and Tom Stoffer accompanied by Mrs. Edgar Heist; Mary Byler accompanied by Linda Waters; Rod and Barb Thomas sang two numbers; and the final musical contribution was made by a large delegation of youth from Smithville. The evening closed with a recalling of our **Proud Heritage** as Brethren and a plea for men and women to covenant in prayer for persons to enter ministry to become pastors, missionaries and specific workers in the kingdom. (The list of those uniting in this BOND OF PRAYER is included below). An invitation was extended to persons to commit their lives to Christian ministry and a number of young people responded to the call; it was an exciting time as they stood in dedication.

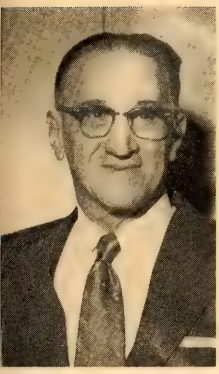
The Smithville congregation and their pastor Larry Bolinger made the success of the evening possible by their cooperation and hard work in getting the food and facilities ready. Other churches contributed to the meal by bringing fruit and relish trays. A good spirit prevailed throughout the evening; fellowship was achieved and God was praised.

We can look back with pride on our heritage but if the present generation leaves a good heritage it will be dependent on prayer. Let us pray for a great future.

Sharon Ullom
Mr. and Mrs. George Snyder
Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Mack, Sr.
Mable Wilkins
Lee Brown
Bradley J. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Coleman
Mrs. Marie Solomon
Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Waters
Mrs. Homer Ebersole
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kroft
Rev. and Mrs. Brad Weidenhamer
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Brady
Rev. Carl D. Thomas
Dennis K. Grumbling
Ruth Ross
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gibson
Marie Becknell
Donna and Dave Barnes
Carl and Penny Howenstine
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hubler
Rev. and Mrs. John T. Byler
William Bowers
Helen Shively
Mrs. Marjorie Kimmel
Rev. and Mrs. Gene Beekley
Mr. Tom Stoffer
Mary L. Byler
Mr. and Mrs. Galan Sluss
Mrs. Bud Sipe
Mrs. Katherine Barr
Dorothy Carpenter
Rev. and Mrs. Larry Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Amstutz
Mr. and Mrs. George Schuster

WILLIAMSTOWN, OHIO

HIS TRUTH GOES MARCHING ON



In the month of June, 1973, Williamstown First Brethren Church group took a giant "stride forward in faith" when they voted to call and support a full time pastor for the first time in the history of the local church. In accordance with this plan they issued a call to Pastor Leonard S. Bennett, who, at the time, was pastoring The First Brethren Church at Huntington, Ind. Rev. Bennett accepted the call and on the first Sunday in December 1973, Rev. Bennett held his first service as pastor of the Williamstown church.

The next step was to get together a Sunday School attendance contest. The members of the Sunday School were evenly divided into three teams, the Red, White, and Blues. The Reds won by a few percentage points and were served a banquet by the White and Blue teams. This was held in the recreational rooms of the church. The contest was a huge success because "Everybody got into the act." After the final accounting had been completed, the school showed a 72% gain. The Morning Worship service showed almost a 100% gain. Praise the Lord!

All this time we had been eagerly awaiting and prayerfully preparing ourselves for a series of revival meetings. The first of these meetings was held April 28, with Rev. Bill Ross, evangelist from Sarasota, Florida, preaching God's Word. Now travelling with Rev. Ross is a Gospel Singer by the name of Danny Lee Pearce. Danny is a former member of a nationally known Gospel Singing Quartet. He is also a talented organist. God blessed the preaching of Rev. Ross as fifteen penitents rededicated their lives while three others accepted Christ as Saviour.

On the first Sunday evening in May Rev. Bennett inaugerated the first Sunday evening service. Since then this has been the regular procedure and the attendance has been quite gratifying. We are now also enjoying a weekly Bible Study and prayer meeting, held on each Wednesday evening. We started with a meager seven or eight and now the group numbers twenty-five! Praise the Lord! Since the first Wednesday evening in January, 1974, when the first meeting was held, Pastor Bennett has been conducting an indepth study in "Keeping the Faith." The primary Scripture is furnished by the Book of Jude. Even though we are in the vacation and camping season, the folks have been faithful in attendance.

The immediate future for Williamstown holds the following: Friday eve, June 14, Father's and Son's carry-in banquet. They will be served by the ladies of the W.M.S. For Mother's Day, the menfolk served a dinner to the Mothers and Daughters . . . on sort of a reciprocal basis.

Daily Vacation Bible School will be held from June 24 thru 28. Commencement exercises will be held on Sunday evening, June 30.

Williamstown Brethren are seeking a suitable property to purchase for a parsonage. Join your prayers with ours that we may soon be led to such a property. Continue to hold us up in prayer so that we may prove faithful to God's trust in us.

Submitted by—Leonard S. Bennettt, Pastor



Provision has been made to use the Ashland County Fairgrounds area for campers and trailers again during General Conference time. The rate is the same as last year $2.50 per day.

SIGNAL LIGHTS' STORIES FOR AUGUST

BIBLE THEME: CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

MISSION PROJECT: HELPING IN COLOMBIA

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

TIMOTHY

"Please tell me a Bible story," Timothy asked Grandmother Lois.

As she made the bread, Grandmother told the small boy a story.

His mother and grandmother told him many stories from the Bible. He knew about Isaac and Miriam and Samuel and many others.

When Mother told him stories about Miriam and how she always could be counted on to help, she looked at Timothy and said to herself, "We can always count on Timothy to help, too."

When Grandmother told him about Isaac who was friendly to everyone, she thought, "I'm glad that Timothy is a friendly boy, too."

At suppertime Timothy stood tall and straight beside the table to say the Bible verses for that day. He was only eight years old, but he knew many verses from the Bible.

So Timothy grew up. He tried to show how much he loved God by doing the things God would want him to do. He found many ways to help people and to tell them about Jesus.

One day he said, "Mother, I love God. I want to work for Him. What can I do?"

Mother smiled. "God needs many workers, Timothy. The next time Missionary Paul is here talk with him. Perhaps he can help you decide the way you should serve God."

Not long after that Paul stopped at Timothy's home.

"My, how you have grown!" said the missionary. "Has your mind grown, too? Tell me what you have learned."

Timothy told Paul of the things he had learned in the synagogue school and from his mother and grandmother.

"I know God is my heavenly Father," he said. "I know Jesus is His Son, my Savior. I want to serve Him."

"You will make a good minister," said Paul as he laid his hands on Timothy's head. "Will you go with me to tell others of Jesus?"

"Yes, I will," answered Timothy.

Mother and Grandmother smiled. They were pleased that Timothy was going to be Paul's helper. They knew he would be a good minister for Jesus.

—Based on I and II Timothy

Memory Scripture: I Timothy 4:12a

LOS GAMINES QUE ME VISITAN

(The Beggar Boys Who Visit Me)

Missionary Ken Solomon
Medellin, Colombia, S.A.

"Sobraditos" inquires the little ragged barefoot children when we answer the door. It means, "Any little left-overs for us today?"

Even though our neighbors warned us not to give them anything or else we would have them coming every day and in increasing numbers we just couldn't turn them away empty-handed, and with an empty stomach, too.

God has been so very good to us and has taught us to be thoughtful and generous with those less fortunate than we. Has He not said in His Word, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (without knowing it)? We never know which one may be an "angel" in disguise in order to see if we really love Jesus and our neighbors as ourselves. Besides, it is so much fun to give. The Bible is right when it says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." And so we just love to give generously to these poor, little beggar children.

However, we don't just think of their empty stomachs and their cold bodies that haven't enough clothing to keep them warm on these cool, spring-like Medellin evenings, but we also are reminded by Jesus of a **greater** need: that they may know Him, Whom to know aright is Life Eternal. So we give them a lovely Gospel tract to take home to read or to have their parents read to them.

Just as I am writing this to you a dark-skinned barefoot little beggar came to the door. The children, Tim, Becky, Joel, and Margie, are all in school. My wife Jan is working at her job as Librarian at the Bible Seminary where I teach some days each week. So I went on the upstairs balcony right outside my office and called down to ask him what he wanted. Of course, I already know.

He asked for "centavitos" (some pennies) or "Tiene Ud, algo para regalarme?" (Do you have something you can give me?

I went to find him a coin. I dropped it down to him, and a lovely, colorful tract with a picture of boys and girls on the front and the words JESUS BENDICE A LOS NINOS (Jesus Blesses the Children). Inside it has the rest of the Bible story, with more pictures telling of the invitation that Jesus extends to all little children to come to Him to receive His blessing of love, forgiveness, and salvation.

What a thrill it is to share with these little Gamines of Colombia, not only from our abundance of material possessions but also from the abundant spiritual possessions that God has given us.

Do pray every day for these little beggar boys and girls that they may come to know Jesus as their personal Savior!

Prayer is not a little habit pinned on to us while we were tied to our mother's apron strings, neither is it a little quarter of a minute grace said over an hour's dinner/but it IS A MOST SERIOUS WORK OF OUR MOST SERIOUS YEARS.

from Stockton Brethren Review

A SUCCESS STORY

Everybody loves a success story and Gospel Light Publications have published one under their Regal Book label. **Hope For Your Church** by Harold L. Fickett, Jr. is the story of the steady growth of the First Baptist Church in Van Nuys, California from 15 to 9,000 members. While telling us about his church, Dr. Fickett also explains the biblical principles for its ministry and divides the book into ten chapters covering ten principles of church growth. He shows how any church anywhere can grow and be a positive force for Jesus Christ by obeying what Christ Himself says about the church, His body.

The ten principles covered in the various chapters are: Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Evangelistic, A Regenerated Membership, Confidence in the Leadership, Scripturally Financed, Adequately Staffed, Motivated by Faith, Diversified in Service and Balanced on Emphases.

Inspiring reading for anyone interested in the growth of their own local church, the book is available from the Brethren Publishing Company or your local Christian bookstore for $3.95.

Quoting from page 1, chapter 1 Dr. Fickett says, "God is blessing us because we are a Christ-centered institution. . . . The Psalmist expressed our philosophy in Psalm 127:1 when he wrote: 'Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;' unless the Lord builds the church, they labor in vain that build it."



WORLD RELIEF "Quick" REPORT

by Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee

(The following letter of thanks and information was received just after George Kerlin forwarded another large check from Brethren Offerings to the World Relief Commission—also, it is a credit to WRC that Dr. Graffam was named LAYMAN OF THE YEAR by the National Association of Evangelicals at their Convention in Boston (April, 1974)—a program which I had the privilege of attending.)

June, 1974

Mr. George Kerlin, Treasurer
Brethren World Relief Committee
1318 E. Douglas
Goshen, Indiana 46526

Dear Companion in Compassion:

We are sincerely grateful for your prayer interest and financial help.

Because you have cared, Stateside, we have helped in the tornado-ravaged areas of the U.S., particularly in XENIA, OHIO, where one of our "Missionary Church" congregations suffered the total loss of their church, parsonage, and 13 family homes. Three church leaders and two children died and many members were seriously injured. Help was also provided in nearby NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA (near to Dr. Graffam), where 23 families lost everything in the explosion of a whole section of their city block residences.

Funds were dispatched to help in SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA for key tragedies such as the BENI disastrous flood that left 50,000 families homeless and the continued need in MANAGUA where, 13 months after the earthquake, 8,000 families line up every morning for something to eat.

Aid has been given to thousands of children in VIETNAM at our Children's Hospital, Day Care Centers, and in BANGLADESH through our Under Five Children's Clinics, and the Kwang Tan Orphanage in KOREA. Funds, equipment, medicine, and surgery for TB patients along with loving care have let scores of people in KOREA know of your prayerful concern.

With your help, we continue to be massively involved in crisis care in the SUB-SAHARA, SUDAN, AND ETHIOPIA as we presently provide funds for immediate feeding and village well digging projects. We also have plans for long range food and hehabilitation programs to help these desperately needy return to a more normal way of life.

WRC is honored to serve as one of your channels of Christian help and hope providing physical and spiritual help in the name of the Savior. In His name and those who you have helped, we express our sincere thanks.

WE HAVE NO WORDS TO PROPERLY EXPRESS OUR THANKS TO YOU, PHIL, THE PASTORS AND PEOPLE OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH FOR ALL THEIR PRAYER AND FINANCIAL HELP.

Yours in the JOY of His service,
Signed:
Everett S. Graffam
Executive Vice President
World Relief Commission

FLORAS' TO THE MIDDLE EAST

Rev. and Mrs. Delbert Flora are spending the summer of 1974 in the MIDDLE EAST having left Cleveland on the afternoon of June 12, and leaving New York the same evening for the first stop scheduled for June 13, in Athens, Greece where they intend to stay at the Esperia Palace Hotel.

From Athens they will make a trip to Corinth visiting various areas of the city and the Museum. They are planning to leave Athens Sunday afternoon on a flight which will take them to Izmir, Turkey which will serve as a temporary base from which they will visit Ephesus, Bergama and Sardis. They then will fly to Instanbul to stay a while at the Pera Palas Hotel and visit many interesting sites in Istanbul.

Upon their departure from Istanbul Sunday, June 23 they will visit the next stop on their itinerary which will be Beirut, Lebanon and their temporary abode there will be the Hotel Normandy. Trips planned for the early part of the week of the 23rd are to Baalbek, hopefully a trip north to the Cedars, then to Sidon and Tyre, and back to Beirut for a trip through the city and a visit to the Museum there. They will depart from Beirut Thursday, June 27 for Amman, Jordan stopping at the Philadelphia Hotel. The period of time from June 28 to July 8 will be spent in Jordan leaving there July 8 for Jerusalem via the Allenby Bridge, Jordan River. The months of July 8 to September 9 will be spent in Jerusalem and Israel.

Their tour will continue September 9 from Israel to Rome, Italy where they will reside at the Hotel Alpi. From the time of their arrival there they will tour Rome and vicinity until September 12 on their flight homeward expecting to arrive back in Cleveland, Ohio approximaely 7:00 P.M. Thursday, September 12, 1974.

We wish the Floras God-speed on their journey and look forward to an inspirational and interesting account of their travels upon their return. Rev. Flora has suggested that all mail be addressed to:

Prof. Delbert B. Flora
Albright Institute of Archaeological Research
P.O. Box 19096
Jerusalem, Israel

Send no mail after August 28, 1974.

Rev. Delbert B. Flora is a former Moderator of the General Conference of The Brethren Church having served pastorates in various churches throughout the denomination. He also served as Dean of Ashland Theological Seminary and presently serves part-time as Professor of New Testament and Archaeology at the Seminary. He has recently completed the compilation of writings and photographs for a special issue of the ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL BULLETIN featuring the "Acquisition and Care of an Archaeological Collection" by Robert H. Smith, Associate Professor of Religion at the College of Wooster, Ohio and Chairman of the Humanities Division at that institution.

Rev. and Mrs. Flora reside in Ashland, Ohio and are members of the Park Street Brethren Church of that city.

Count-down for the event of the year is in final stages!

ALL CONFERENCE BANQUET

"THE WORD"

Friday, August 16, 1974 5:45 p.m.
Place: AC Convocation Center Cost: $4.00
Reservations must be turned in to the Publishing Company by August 9. Tickets may be picked up (and paid for if money is not sent with reservation) during Conference week.

ALL CONFERENCE BANQUET RESERVATION

Number of reservations desired _____

Names: _____

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Return to:
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524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805
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910 Center
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Conference Speaker



The Executive Committee is realizing the desire of many years in having evangelistic services as a part of the General Conference program. In the 1974 Conference, Evangelist Howard O. Jones will be bringing messages Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and at an early service on Sunday morning.

Howard O. Jones has been an Associate Evangelist on the Billy Graham Team since 1958. He spends part of his time each year in Africa, where he conducts evangelistic crusades in various countries.

His weekly broadcast, "The Hour of Freedom," over radio station ELWA in Monrovia, Liberia, reaches thousands across the continent of Africa. The program is also aired in cities in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, April 12, 1921, he later studied music at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and was headed toward a career as a jazz musician. However, following a deep Christian experience, he felt called to the ministry. Upon graduation from the Nyack Bible College (New York) he pastored churches in New York City and Cleveland, Ohio.

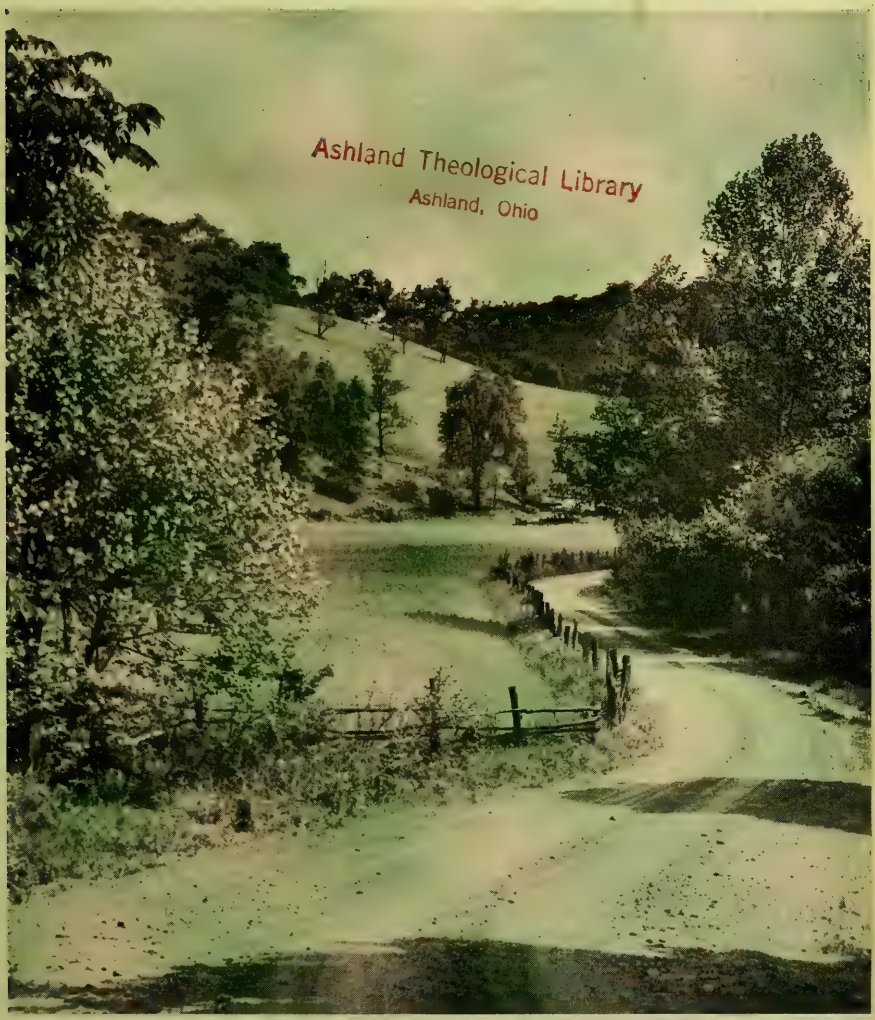
In May, 1970, Howard received the Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Huntington College, Huntington, Indiana, and was elected to the Board of Trustees in January, 1974.

He is active in evangelistic crusades, Bible conferences and missionary conventions. He is the author of the book "From the World of Jazz," a story of his conversion and call to the ministry. He has just finished a new book—**"White Questions To A Black Christian."**—Zondervan Publishing Company to be published in January, 1975.

Howard and his wife, Wanda, are the parents of five children. Three of his daughters are the well known Jones Sisters Trio, recording artists for Word Records, Inc. Howard and his family make their home in Oberlin, Ohio.

Dr. Jones is also director of the Billy Graham Africa Relief Fund Project for the famine stricken areas of Africa.

The Brethren EVANGELIST


Ashland Theological Library
Ashland, Ohio

Psalm 19:1

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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

SENATE BILL WOULD REDUCE 2nd CLASS MAIL COSTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The U.S. Senate has passed a bill which would significantly reduce the impact of scheduled postal rate increases for non-profit users of second-class mail.

Under the postal rate increases which went into effect in 1971, the increases were to be "phased," in over a 10-year period. The proposed bill would lessen the impact by giving non-profit users an additional 6 years to "phase in" the increase.

The individual yearly effect of the increase would be less, said James A. Doyle, executive director of the Catholic Press Association. "We're not sure how much less—it might be 20 to 30 per cent less."

"But it is significant. It would make the burden somewhat lighter" for non-profit second-lass mail users, Mr. Doyle said.

He said the proposed bill passed by the Senate has now been approved by the House of Representatives postal affairs subcommittee and is expected to come before the full post office committee in the House on May 30. The bill would then go to the floor of the House.

Mr. Doyle noted that while the proposed bill does offer some relief, "in the meantime, the Postal Rate Commission is expected to ask for further rate increases in all classes of mail."

Supporters of the measure have argued that such a move was required to insure the survival of thousands of journals, periodicals and other newspapers which otherwise might be forced out of business due to rising postal rates.

The bill would give regular second-class patrons three additional years to "phase in" the increase. Non-profit mailers would receive a six-year extension.

Several Senators expressed the need for a stronger bill. Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D. Wis.) said the measure which was passed "does not go far enough to remove the threat" to the quality and even survival of "small periodicals and independent journals of opinion."

He quoted the publisher of a small periodical as saying that the bill would merely "mean postponement of the death sentence."

By the Way

'MENE,' 'MENE,' 'TEKEL,' 'UPHARSIN,'

Must these familiar words found in the Old Testament chapter of Daniel be written again and the handwriting on the wall be made visual once more to make, not a king this time, but all of society aware of what may be forthcoming in the future?

Recently a communique came to this desk urging us to use our influence and express resistance and objection to the new censorship laws being enacted by various courts in our land. This bulletin was received from the American Booksellers Association (with whom our Publishing Company is NOT affiliated) and statements to stir up emotions such as "it is very possible that this legislation will limit Americans' right to read" was the keystone position they wished to use to support their appeal.

As a member of the **CHRISTIAN** BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION we wish to go on record as opposing this type of pressure being brought to bear on legislators to abolish any type of censorship, regardless of what method they may wish to use.

In this respect we wish to align our position on the matter along with that of John Bass, Executive Vice President of the C.B.A. in this news communique **A CALL TO STAND:**

"Historically, censorship has had devastating effects when used to the advantage of governmental tyrants or even religious leaders whose objectives were of a selfish nature or used them as a method of bringing about bondage, whether political or religious.

However, we believe that there is a balance that must be pursued to prevent a complete moral decay. While it may be possible that many adults can be exposed to amoral or immoral materials without a loss of their sensitivity of their own obligations to society, if we are to believe outstanding sociologists of our day, even this is doubtful. We also know that from testimonies of many professional counselors that crimes and offenses against society have had their roots in this concept of free thinking and their exposure to materials where the ideas were sown. Without a doubt, the most serious consequences will be to the future adult society, which will be comprised of the youth of our day, who are being exposed to this material without adequate judgmental ability to evaluate its effects on society. We believe that one of Satan's greatest activities of today is to deceive the minds of those outside of Christ, as well as many within the Body.

We, as Christians, should have a firm conviction that God has prepared a plan for a harmonious society. This can come about only as a result of a moral structure which develops a healthy and happy family unit, ultimately leading to responsibilities of each person toward society and on to communities which establish the real value system and structure of our nation.

We urge Christian Booksellers to take an intelligent, kind, yet strong position of leadership in the community where these issues are in question. I believe these problems must be faced from a sociological nature and must not be "spiritualized" to the exclusion of all other factors, as such opinions will fall on deaf ears. Yet we can communicate the scriptural principles for these issues in a manner that is persuasive even to non-Christians. As we look at the history of our nation, its greatness has been based on the foundational principles which God has established for harmonious societies. If we lack wisdom, we have been promised that "in counsel there is safety; and God will provide wisdom if we really seek it."

Contact your governmental representatives, both locally and nationally, to encourage them to stand by the convictions which many of them have, yet which they may feel are unpopular today. Our office will be glad to give you counsel should you need it."

MISSIONARY NEWS

NIGERIAN STUDY TOUR — PART II

Waka — K.B.S. — Lassa

by Mrs. Mark Logan, Sr.

(Continued from the July 27 issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST)

With Garkida as our home base we went out to visit other parts of our mission area. In Kulp's day it took two days to travel from Bui to Garkida. We left Garkida about 9:00 a.m., stopped at Shafa for coffee and arrived in Bui before 11:00.

We went first to greet the Emir of Bui. His Excellency, Alhaji Mustafa Aluju traces his ancestry back to the middle of the 16th century. He received us in his office which was rather plush compared to other places we had been. There was carpet on the floor and we sat around a big table for our talk. He expressed thanks for the work of the missionaries.

We left the relative cool of the Emir's palace to go to the market. It is not only a place where they sell and buy, it is where services are performed and where friends meet and visit together.

We had English-speaking school boys to guide us through the crowded aisles. We saw displays of beautiful cloth and colorful kitchen ware. In the food line you could buy ground nuts, guinea corn, maize and a few vegetables (onions, okra and peppers). The meat that the butcher offered was uncovered, unrefrigerated. The eggs I saw were small. There were places to buy simple drug needs and hardware and jewelry booths where the women bought their colorful earrings. The tailor with his sewing machine and the barber were there and we saw a man making sandals from old tires. We didn't have time to see it all.

Market is held in villages once a week. In larger towns it may be twice a week; in the cities it is active every day. In our travelling about we would begin to see many people walking along the road with loads on their heads. We knew that it was market day in the next village.

Some of our group made purchases and we went on to Waka School, 3 miles away. It is a beautiful rural setting. We arrived in time for lunch with the students (Nigerian food). A tour of the school followed. All of the buildings are made of stone and have electricity and running water. In recent months, since our visit, there have been problems because of the water shortage. The Waka chapel is a beautiful building which will accommodate 1,000 people. Three services are conducted each Sunday, two in English and one in Bura or Hausa.



Mrs. Mark (Edna) Logan Sr.

Waka school was started in 1959 to train students beyond primary grades. It is now two schools; secondary or high school, and Teacher Training school. The present enrollment is around 800. It has recently been turned over to the government.

— — —

In the afternoon they had a program of songs, dances and skits. Then we were invited into the homes of staff members for dinner. Each of us had a different experience. My hosts were two young men from southern Nigeria. It was a part of their continuing education to teach for two years in a different area.

Soon after I arrived they served me coke and

peanuts, which we munched until supper was served by their houseboy. The meal was mush and sauce, served in two bowls. We ate with our fingers, taking a glob of mush, dipping it into the sauce and then into the mouth.

It was a delightful evening. My hosts brought me a tea towel for a bib as they apologized for having no napkins. They were amazed that I drank my coffee (Nescafe) black, saying it was worse than malaria medicine. They asked about black people in the United States and when I said I had a negro working on my farm, they asked if he was as black as they. They presented me with a gaily decorated straw hat and some sticks used by Nigerians to clean their teeth. They assured me they were better than toothbrushes.

I was sorry when the motor came to pick me up for the trip back to Garkida. On the way home we passed villages of compounds, dark except for the fires and lanterns. Our driver told us that on moonlight nights there would be music and dancing.

The next morning we were on the go again. This time our destination was Kulp Bible School (K.B.S.), 68 miles away. We stopped to greet a village chief and visit a school. The classrooms were crowded for the need of teachers. Whenever we entered a school room the children stood up and greated us in English "Good morning." We'd respond "Good morning" (no matter what time of day). The children—"How are you?" Tour members "We are fine, how are you?" etc. Sometimes we would watch the teacher at her job, sometimes there was a song. Sometimes we talked with the children. English is taught in all the schools.

It was about 1:30 when we arrived at K.B.S. where we had lunch with Dick and Kitty Winfield. Other missionary families there were the Ogburns, from Pennsylvania, and the Rudolphs from Switzerland. The last couple is with the Basel mission which now cooperated with the Brethren.

Kulp Bible School was started in 1960 to train men for the ministry. Each couple is recommended by their home church which aids them the first year. After that they are supposed to support themselves from their garden and two acres on which they grow three crops—cotton, guinea corn and groundnuts. Along with Bible and related subjects the student learns modern methods of farming so that he can support himself when he goes out into the villages to preach. His wife is given help in homemaking, and how to assume leadership among the women.

Modern methods of agriculture means using an ox and plow instead of a short handled hoe. We ate a meal with a teacher who raised 300 chickens! (an enormous amount for Nigeria) Although the chicken we ate was not as tender and tasty as that found in the Shenandoah Valley, the Nigerian hospitality was unsurpassed.

In the afternoon and evening a program of native music and dances was presented. Fifteen tribes were represented. Some had walked more than 25 miles. In the early days of the mission work, dancing was forbidden by the church. Now it is accepted as a part of the African heritage and a way of praising God.

From K.B.S. we went eleven miles to Mubi where some of us spent the night. Stover Kulp started the work there in 1954. And it was supported for a while by the missionaries. It was a predominantly Moslem city where many languages were spoken. Kulp reports preaching one day in three languages that were interpreted into three other ones. The church membership now is over 600. We visited the City leaders and attended a small fair.

One of our most heartwarming experiences was on our way to Lassa from K.B.S. at the Hildi church. As we turned off the main road we heard singing. We were escorted to the church (about ½ mile) by the girls brigade and choir, singing all the way. After a program of music, many followed us as we left.

Another stop (an unexpected one) was made to watch a fishing excursion. It was the first day of fishing season and everyone turned out—with nets they waded up the stream. It is a social event as well as a way of providing them with nutritious food to supplement their regular guinea corn diet.

On arrival in Lassa we were assigned to our sleeping quarters. Buckets of hot water were brought for our baths. Cold water was piped into the house. As always, there was boiled water in bottles for drinking. As before we ate in the missionary homes. At Lassa we found Dr. Zinn head of the hospital; Dr. Nash who is there for language study before going to Garkida, and Von Hall. Grace Brubaugh had come from Chibuk to visit us. We could not go there because the road was too bad.

The Lassa station is one of the first where work was begun by Stover Kulp and Homer Burke in 1928. With the help of two native Christians they soon started a church, and a school, and medical work. All have continued to grow. We visited the school and hospital. A special afternoon service was held at the church with Stanley Earhart (one of our tour members) as speaker. Their membership is over 1,100.

Another project now operating is Community Development. The idea is to help the Nigerians help themselves improve their community. Von Hall works with the people who decide what is needed. They have built roads and schools, and dug wells. A young Nigerian, after study in the United States, is assuming leadership in this field.

Our Lassa schedule was a busy one. We got up early (six o'clock) and drove out into the country to visit some people of the Nomadic Fulany tribe. They are cattle herders who are coming into the Larden Gabas area because of the drought in the north. Their way of life is simple. The woman we saw had a cookpot for a kitchen, her hut was a few branches covered with plastic, and a tree was her clothesline.

We stopped at Ngurthlavu to greet the chief who was an interesting man. Although he was Christian, his father had been Moslem and a polygamist. The chief was one of 31 children and a former teacher. Before we left he brought out a sheep. He said it was the custom of his father to give special guests a gift—maybe a sow or a horse. This sheep (his "widow's mite") was his gift to us. We thanked him and made room in one of the landrovers for the trip back to the mission.

We learned much about life in Larden Gabas in and around Lassa. We visited a compound where we went into a woman's dark, windowless kitchen hut. She does most of her grinding and cooking outside. Nearby is the grainery where the grain is stored. In some areas, now, the grain may be taken into the village for grinding. We talked to the village baker as we viewed his dome-shaped bake oven. He covers his bread pans so that the loaves were flat on top.

Some women and girls demonstrated how they do the beautiful hair styles, which were generally covered with headscarves.

In the evening we were guests in Nigerian homes. My host was a teacher who was interested in growing citrus fruit. The regular meat stew and rice was accompanied with orange and grapefruit sections. These fruits are much needed in the people's diet, but our host could see no way that he could get enough money to go into the business. We ate by lantern light as the children played outside. Our hostess served and then ate in the room with us, but not at the table.

At seven o'clock in the morning some of us went to the hospital for the mission radio broadcast. This is the means of communication between the mission points.

When we left Lassa we felt we were leaving friends—both black and white. We met more friends at the Michika Church, and at the Lit-Lit Center (Literature and Literary). Lit-Lit means translating the Good News into the language of the people and then teaching them to read it. This was the area where the Ashland Brethren have been most active. Larry Bollinger was the latest of our missionaries to work there.

Veda and I had the added pleasure of visiting Cheryl and Jerry Grieve in their compound. Dick Winfield took us to Hong where they live. They are doing translation work with Wycliffe Bible translators. We visited them again in Jos when we stayed next door at the vacation compound. They were there to await the stork's arrival.

The second weekend three of us spent in Marma. Much of the ten mile road from the main highway had washed out during the rainy season. So our trip over this road, at night, in a land rover piled full of boxes, bags and seven people, was a bit hectic. Lena Wirth welcomed us warmly and we prepared for bed by kerosene lamplight.

The Marma station was opened in 1930. A school and dispensary were started a year later. Both are now entirely staffed with Nigerians. Miss Wirth conducts clinics for expectant mothers and pre-school children in the surrounding area. We visited an agriculture school, another area of community development. It helps the people help themselves by teaching improved methods of farming.

At the Sunday morning worship service the church was overflowing, children sat on the floor. Afterward the girls brigade sang and danced for us. In the afternoon we were guests of the church leaders for tea and conversation.

Following the formal meeting I talked to a woman about women's church work. They have meetings every two weeks. They help when there is sickness or death. To raise money for a project they will hoe a field for someone or raise a crop of groundnuts. A typical project would be buying beds for K.B.S. Her last words to me were, "Pray for us."

The next morning we left Marma and Larden Gabas. We had another week of travel and of learning. We continued to see how the work, which was started fifty years ago, had spread far beyond the village of Garkida.

More later.

K. VIJAYA KUMAR GRADUATES FROM SEMINARY

During the 1974 Ashland College and Seminary commencement, K. Vijaya Kumar received his diploma after three years of study at the Ashland Theological Seminary. Since his brother and sister-in law, Prasanth and Nirmala were touring Brethren churches in the United States at the time they were able to be present at the commencement exercises.

K. Prasantha Kumar and his wife Nirmala, opened up a new mission field for the Brethren in their homeland of India beginning in December of 1969. Vijay came to the United States for Seminary training and will be returning to India in late 1974 as a missionary to assist in the Brethren Mission of India.

During the summer months, Vijay has been in Israel with a team from the Seminary, participating in an archaeological "dig." In the fall he will be completing training for missionary service and doing some deputation in Brethren churches before returning to India.



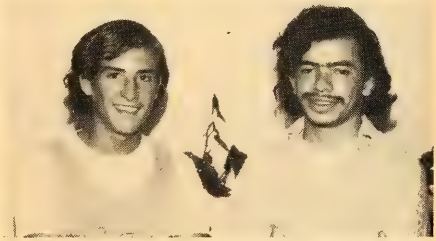
Graduate Vijay, Nirmala, and Prasantha Kumar

ADVANCES IN COLOMBIA

In the last issue of the **BRETHREN EVANGELIST** missionary Kenneth Solomon contributed an article relative to the first baptismal service and the first observance of Holy Communion by the newly founded Brethren Church in Colombia. We publish herewith, pictures illustrating these two services as commented on by Rev. Solomon in the last issue.



The baptismal service took place in a mountain river some distance from Medellin. The small group that has been meeting in the Solomon residence travelled together in a mini-bus for a day together of study from God's word and the baptism.



Shown here are the first two, won to the Lord by our Brethren workers in Medellin, Colombia. Shown are Jorge Dario Avendano Concha and Kenneth Eduardo Barriga. Remember these two in prayer that they might be found faithful as they witness to others of their new found faith.

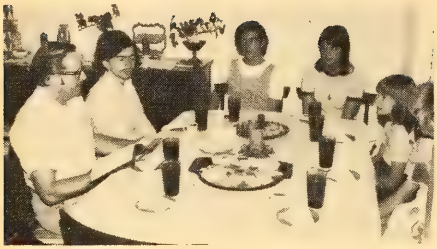


One of the first two converts of the Brethren Mission is being baptized by Kenneth Solomon.



Upon their return to the city, the first communion service of the Brethren Church was held in Colombia with the participation of these new believers. The foot-washing service was a memorable time for all of the participants.

(*continued on next page*)



The Lord's Supper, though the group was small the moment was history as Missionary Solomon explained the meaning and each partook as brothers in the Lord.

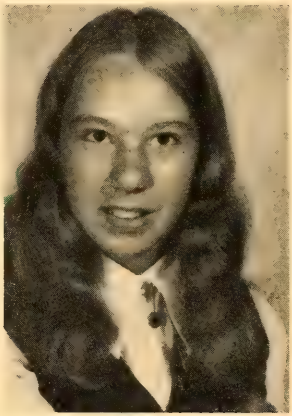
Continue to remember our workers in prayer that they might be granted the contacts, liberty, and the right words to share the great gift of salvation to those in this large city with so much need.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT

A Home Mission Ministry in St. Petersburg, Florida
Reporters:
Phil & Jean Lersch
Bessie Munson

ODE TO DEBORAH

Some folks seek pleasure
And **fun** without measure
When planning to take a vacation.
They covet their turn
To spend what they've earned
To impress other folks with their station.
But one gal I know
Doesn't go for this show
In making her plans for the summer.
She puts **others** first;
In service immersed,
She marches to "that different drummer."
She scrubbed and she printed
Whenever we hinted
A cupboard or sign needed doing.
She spruced up the place
With much ease and grace
Improving the teaching and viewing.
She followed her orders
And lived in cramped quarters
With nary a groan or a sigh.
Her quick, quiet manner
Should warrant a banner
Extolling her virtues on high.
Amid storm and flood
Beaucoup rain and mud
She weathered with us this disaster.
Forsaken by sunshine
Abandoning "funtime,"
She "gave of her best to the Master."
So Deborah* dear,
We want all to hear,
Although you're still as a mouse,
You're first in our ranks;
We give you our thanks
For serving so well Brethren House.



*DEBORAH MUNSON, junior at Ashland High School, flew to St. Petersburg, Florida, on June 18th and stayed at Brethren House until July 16th. During that time she helped in ways too innumerable to mention.

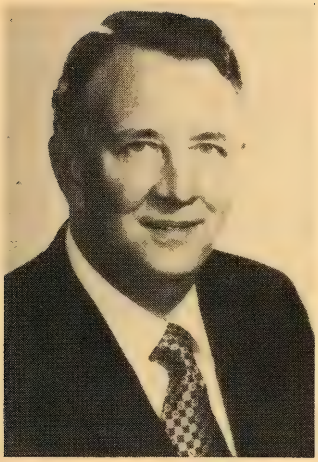
Since we were getting ready for our workshops in the north, there were many preparations necessary, and she cheerfully did all that was asked of her. Signs had to be lettered and covered with contact paper. Materials coming out of storage had to be remade in some cases and improved in others to stand the wear and tear of travel and handling in workshops. (All of our materials are to be handled.)

I was recuperating from surgery and Deborah even helped with my laundry and cooking. She also was additional company for Susan during the lonely time of Mother being in the hospital.

And then there were the nitty-gritty chores involved in housecleaning Brethren House. Even these Deborah did cheerfully. We had hoped that she would have the benefit of some nice Florida sunshine to offset all of the unglamorous chores we were giving her, but the rainy season hid the sun from us almost daily during Deborah's visit. Sorry about that, Deb! There was no pay or recognition for this summer of work for Deborah. She did it all willingly and without thought of reward. This truly conveys the spirit that Jesus taught.

—Jean





Paris W. Reidhead will be the featured speaker for the National Laymen's Organization on the **Laymen Inspirational Sharing** program Tuesday evening of General Conference and will also be speaking to the Laymen, Pastors, and Brotherhood at their Joint Inspirational Session Wednesday morning.

Dr. Reidhead received his A.B. Degree from Taylor University, is a Graduate of Theology from Northwestern Schools, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Graduate Studies in Linguistics and Anthropology.

He pioneered linguistic analysis of unwritten languages in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan under auspices of Sudan Interior Mission while seconded to the Educational Department of Sudan Government.

He was Deputational Secretary of the Sudan Interior Mission with responsibility to represent the Society's interests in Southeastern United States.

As a Conference speaker and lecturer throughout the United States and Canada he represented the possibilities of service and assistance in developing countries.

After serving as pastor from 1957 to 1966 of Gospel Tabernacle Church of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in New York City during which time he was closely identified with activities in behalf of the underprivileged in the New York area he became Director of Development Assistance Service of The Institute For International Development, Inc. holding that position at the present time.

He is married to the former Marjorie Nash of Oskaloosa, Iowa and is a resident of Vienna, Virginia.

BRETHREN BOND OF PRAYER

Men and women in the Brethren Church are uniting in a **Bond of Prayer** to pray regularly for God to supply pastors, missionaries and educational leadership for the Church. Additional names are: Patty and Sandy Yarian; Glenn Grumbling. If you wish to join these people please indicate that desire by writing to me:

Charles R. Munson
Ashland Theological Seminary
Ashland, Ohio 44805



READERS MAKE LEADERS

RULES
WHO NEEDS THEM?



by Ethel Barrett



A New Regal Venture Book

Let's face it. Rules are here to stay.

And if you're alive and breathing you're going to come to grips with them.

RULES—WHO NEEDS THEM? is a story of people in the Old Testament who came to grips with the rules, each in his own way.

There is Samson, for example. Now he's a real rule bender! King Saul is another. There are Samuel and David and Jonathan. They learned how to live with the rules and enjoy life.

Where did the rules come from? Right out of the Bible. That's why it's important not to bend them. When you get to the end of this book you will probably have the answer to the question, "Rules—who needs them?"

RULES — WHO NEEDS THEM? is Ethel Barrett's sixth Regal Venture book for pre-teens—and readers of every age. It is her thirteenth in Gospel Light's REGAL line with more than 2½ million books in print bearing her name.

On radio, television, records, the platform, or on the page, Ethel Barrett's personal charm and enthusiasm as a speaker have gained immediate response from people eight to eighty. Her captivating style of writing and telling stories of Bible persons is repeated in this new Regal Venture Book.

Captivating illustrations by Jim Padgett adds to the excitement of this book. This book will provide most interesting and provocative thoughts for readers age 8 to 80.

This Regal paperback contains 150 pages and is priced at 95¢ and available at the Brethren Bookstores.

WISE UP AND LIVE!

by Paul E. Larsen



Wisdom from Proverbs

WISE UP AND LIVE! is a book of wisdom from Proverbs that meets us where we are and begins to move us to where God wants us to be.

WISE UP AND LIVE! has down-to-earth applications of the brief, terse, pungent sayings of this Old Testament book. It deals not with vapid theory, not with idle speculation, not with vague generalizations, but with Christian discipleship as it is to be lived, taught, felt. Here is reading not only for the study but for the kitchen, the living room, the bedroom, the shop, the store, the office.

The selections from Proverbs made by Mr. Larsen are discussed topically in three categories:

Relationships with God
Relationships with self
Relationships with others.

WISE UP AND LIVE! emphasizes that Proverbs is one of the most comprehensive statements of divine wisdom in all literature. These capsules of wisdom are more than clever hints about how to run your life. They convey a deep spiritual insight that points to the Person of all wisdom, Jesus Christ. Knowing Him, rather than memorizing a list of rules and catchy phrases, is the secret of "wising up and living!"

A teaching and discussion guide is available for use with this valuable book.

Rev. Paul E. Larsen is pastor of the Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City, California. He is a graduate of Stanford University (B.A.) and Fuller Theological Seminary (M.Div.). Mr. Larsen is currently working on his S.T.D. from San Francisco Seminary. From a rich pastoral background, he writes with spiritual depth and perceptive analysis of modern times.

For Bible teachers, pastors, and any adults who want to "wise up and live."

Paperback edition contains 239 pages and is available at $1.25.

The June 1, 1974 issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST contained an article by Dr. Charles Munson pertaining to some growth in the Brethren Church. Dr. Donald McGavran says "We stand on the edge of a real surge of growth" explaining that this growth is "an active reaching out and winning people to Jesus Christ and multiplying cells of Christians."

Many of our local churches are showing a definite interest in Church Growth in this direction and The Publishing Company wishes to be involved in this interest by announcing that it will act as a supplier of the book, "How To Grow A Church" by Drs. Donald A. McGavran & Win Arn published by Gospel Light Publications.

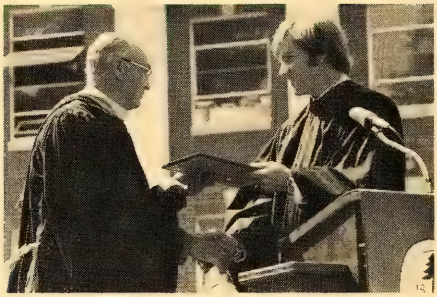
These books retail at $2.95 and will be offered to local Brethren Churches at the price of $2.00 each in quantities of ten or more copies per order. Also available as supplements to the text book are: Learning Pacs containing a Learning Guide, "How To Grow A Church" text book, Cassette resources at $9.95 and separate Learning guides which can be utilized as work-books at $1.00 each.

All prices listed plus postage.

Requests for information pertaining to other motivational material on Church Growth and orders for the books offered above can be sent to:

THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING COMPANY
524 College Ave.,
Ashland, Ohio 44805

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE



(left) Harvey J. Amstutz and Martin Duff, president of student Senate.

Mr. Harvey J. Amstutz of 465 East Main Street, Smithville, Ohio was the recipient of special recognition from faculty and students of Ashland College during the commencement activities held May 19 on the College campus.

The following letter of appreciation and Resolution of Appreciation were presented to Mr. Amstutz for many years of service rendered on the Ashland College Board of Trustees.

Mr. Harvey J. Amstutz
465 East Main Street
Smithville, Ohio 44677

True Friend of Ashland College:

With this letter from the Ashland College Faculty, we wish to express our appreciation for the many years of unselfish service that you have rendered for Ashland College. Since 1937 you have been a member of the Ashland College Board of Trustees, and for thirty-three years of that time you served as Secretary of the Board. Although realizing that you are still an active member of the Board, for this faithful and long service, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,
William Meredith

On behalf of the Ashland College Faculty, Professor William Meredith, President of the Faculty Senate

Whereas, Harvey J. Amstutz has served for thirty-three years as Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Ashland College, and

Whereas, he has consistently supported the development of a strong academic program based upon Christian ideals, and

Whereas, his friendly interest and abiding concern for youth are well known to students of Ashland College,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that in appreciation of his long and faithful service as Secretary of the Board of Trustees and his continuing membership on the Board, Harvey J. Amstutz be, and hereby is, cited and honored by the Student Senate of Ashland College on behalf of all students whom it represents.

Done at Ashland, Ohio, by authority of an action taken by the Student Senate on April 22, 1974.

Mr. Amstutz is the owner and operator of the Rutt & Amstutz Elevator of Smithville, Ohio and holds membership in the First Brethren Church of Smithville and serving on the Deacon Board.

Four Ashland College faculty members whose retirement was approved by the Executive Committee of the AC Board of Trustees are Delbert B. Flora, Dr. Leslie Lindower, Mildred Petit and Harry E. Weidenhamer. The latter two members requested early retirement.

Dr. Lindower's retirement from the post of director of the library was announced in a previous issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST.



Professor Flora, who has been associated with the College for 28 years, served as professor of archeology and new testament at the time of retirement. He previously has been dean of the seminary and associate professor. A graduate of Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary, he received his master of sacred theology from Winona Lake School of Theology. He was a Brethren pastor for 15 years and served as moderator of the General Conference of the Brethren Church in 1958, a member of the Conference Polity Committee in 1961 and chairman of the Central Planning and Coordinating Committee of the denomination. Professor Flora and his wife, Romayne, are the parents of three sons. The Floras live at 42 High St., Ashland.

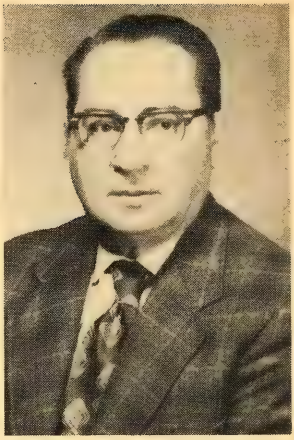


Mrs. Petit retires from the position of associate librarian which she accepted in 1964. She formerly was dean of women at AC seven years before becoming librarian of Kingwood Center for 11 years. Mrs. Petit taught school in New Haven, Ohio, and Johnstown, Pa.

An alumnus of Ashland College, Mrs. Petit received a master's degree in English from the University of Pittsburgh and her master of library science degree from Case Western Reserve University.

She is affiliated with the Society of Ohio Archivists, Altrusa Club of Ashland and the Brethren Church. Mrs. Petit lives at 120 College Ave., Ashland.

(continued on next page)



Weidenhamer, professor of geology, joined the AC faculty in 1947. He was formerly associated with Ohio Brass Co. and Mansfield Plating Company. He was graduated from Ashland College and received his master of science degree from Ohio State University.

His professional affiliations include the Ohio Academy of Science, the American Academy for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi and the American Association of University Professors.

Weidenhamer and wife, Grace, are the parents of two sons. They live at 425 Samaritan Ave., Ashland.

Dr. Lindower, Professor Flora, Mrs. Petit and Mr. Weidenhamer are all members of the First Brethren Church on Park Street, Ashland, Ohio.



ASHLAND, Ohio—Rev. J. Ray Klingensmith, who has served as chairman of the department of religion at Ashland College, has resigned his chairmanship. He will be succeeded by Dr. George Spink, who also serves as director of the division of humanities. The Rev. Mr. Klingensmith will continue as a member of the faculty of the religion department.

The retiring chairman is a graduate of Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary. He served as minister of Brethren Churches in Oakville, Elkhart, Ind., Dayton and Washington, D.C., and was general secretary of Home and Foreign Missions of the Brethren Church.

Professor Klingensmith and his wife, Christine, live at 16 Vernon Avenue, Ashland. They are the parents of one daughter, Mrs. Donald Rinehart of Ashland.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Evangelical Christian leaders from every corner of the globe arrived here to attend a historic International Congress on World Evangelization from July 16-25. It is considered to be the largest gathering of evangelical Christians ever assembled. Excitement mounted as each busload of passengers arrived from the Geneva airport. Those attending the congress consisted of white, black, yellow and brown races; professional educators, Theologians, ministers, evangelists, missionaries, Bible translators and youths. The scene was unlike any other international gathering. They called one another "Brother" and embraced often; their smiles encouraged conversation. They waited patiently in long registration lines, and their talk was spiced with hallelujahs, praise the Lord and references to the Holy Spirit.

In addition to the 2,700 invited participants to the congress, expected were more than 400 official observers, more than 300 accredited media personnel and a few hundred other guests. By the time Dr. Billy Graham, as honorary chairman, addressed the first plenary session more than 4,500 were in attendance.

The congress participants, from more than 150 nations, belong to diverse denominations. The leadership of these religious leaders will influence thousands of Christians around the globe, many of whom have been praying for the success of this congress for months.

To a person, the participants have come to this historic meeting of one mind—to discuss strategies of evangelism and, hopefully, to come under the influence of God's Holy Spirit. The latter is absolutely essential, they believe, if they are to achieve their goal of carrying the Christian Gospel to every person on earth before the end of this century.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland—Swiss citizens welcomed the International Congress on World Evangelization with a record crowd in Olympic Stadium here Sunday (21 July). The evangelistic rally conducted by Billy Graham was the major public event of a 10-day congress involving evangelical leaders from over 150 nations.

The North Carolina evangelist asked his audience to stand at the beginning of his message for a moment of silent prayer for peace in the Cyprus area.

"We can't know how bad" the Cyprus situation is or "where it's going to lead," he said. "The world could be on the verge of the most terrible conflict in history."

Just one person could avert such a conflict, the 55-year-old clergyman declared, by "obeying God" and finding "fulfillment in Jesus Christ."

Graham said the problems of the world could be solved through Jesus Christ. "Many say there is no way out, God says there is," he added.

"The Swiss are the watchmakers and timekeepers of the world," the preacher told the throng. "What a pity if you miss God's time. It is now."

At his invitation, over 500 streamed from the stands onto the stadium's track to receive counselling about how to become Christians and how to live the Christian life.

Before he spoke, three congress leaders told the throng about their own conversion to Christianity. They were the Reverend Akira Hatori of Japan, Bishop Festo Kivengere of Uganda, and Dr. K. M. Nambudripad of India.

Congregational singing and the music of a Swiss choir and a Salvation Army band were supplemented by the special music of congress participants from other nations.

In addition to the Swiss and the congress participants, bus loads came to the rally from France and other neighboring countries. Graham's message was translated into French and German.





CAPSULE BYC REPORTS

VINCO (PA. DIST.)



Vinco youth rocking for National BYC (photo by Rev. C. William Cole).

The Senior BYC "rocked all night" to raise money for district and national youth projects. The youth rocked for 30 hours with a goal of $1000. Their time was spent in listening to special numbers, group singing, Bible reading, and sharing Jesus' love. An inspiring candlelight service was held at midnight. Parents donated food, while advisor Tom Frederick served as "go-fer" for the youth. Interested people dropped in at all hours to donate money and to receive a spiritual blessing. Covered by the local newspaper and television station, the event netted $900.

During the visit of Rev. and Mrs. Prasantha Kumar to Vinco in April, President Rob Dysert and Assistant Treasurer Bryan Lynch presented them with a certificate of promise for $500, one half of the local goal of the local group for the 1973-74 National BYC Budget/Project Ingathering.

The "eager beaver" junior high youth had a contest for attendance in Sunday School, Sunday morning and evening worship services, prayer meeting, Brotherhood and Sisterhood, and for bringing Bibles to BYC. The losers treated the winners to a pizza party. For a project, they made and sold lint brushes, netting $150.

The annual Youth Sunday was observed on May 26. During Sunday School and morning worship, youth filled the positions of superintendents, pianists, choristers, organist, secretary, ushers and 24 teachers (from nursery through adult classes). The evening public service featured all three BYC groups, with each making a presentation on the theme "Praise the Lord." Several responded to the invitation given at the end of the service.

NAPPANEE (N. INDIANA DIST.)

The theme of the Senior BYC for the year was Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

To celebrate Easter, the group attended the "Passion Play," a presentation of the life of Christ from Palm Sunday through the ascension.

The highlight of the year was a trip to Lost Creek, Kentucky, during spring vacation. A total of 16 youth and 6 adults made the trek which included a chapel service, painting, and cabinet finishing. While there the group also presented the musical "What's It All About Anyhow?" The visit also included stops at Krypton and Natural Bridge State Park.

ARDMORE (N. INDIANA DIST.)

The Junior BYC has been reading a chapter of Matthew each week, in accordance with the suggestion of the Committee on Evaluation of the Moderator's Address of the 1973 Convention. After reading the chapter of the week, they have a question and answer time.

Projects of the year included a snack sale and a sale of bicycle reflectors. They have made contributions toward purchase of a church typewriter and toward a memorial fund for the father of one of their members. They have also set a goal of $50.00 for the National BYC Budget/Project Ingathering.

COUNTY LINE (N. INDIANA DIST.)

Several times during the year short programs for senior citizens and shut-ins were held in their homes by the Senior BYC. These programs included the singing of favorite hymns, poems, and a short talk.

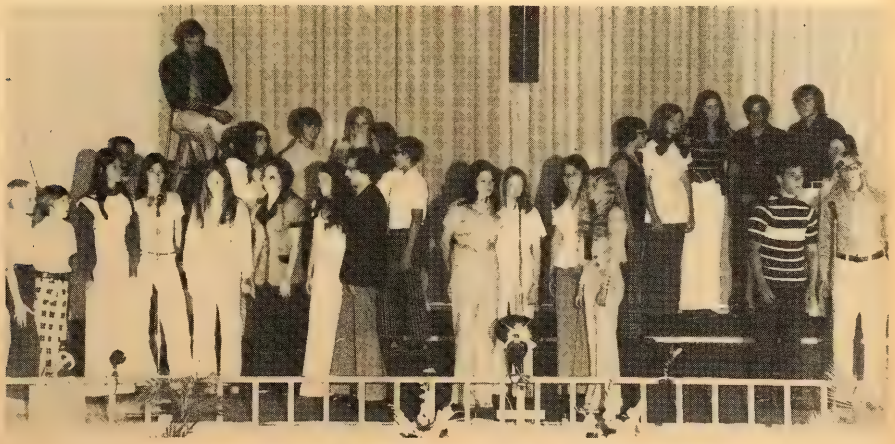
The group has studied the books of Ecclesiastes, Hebrews, and **Parables for Peanuts.** They also saw the motion picture **Time To Run** as a group.

Money-making projects included the annual Hobo supper, where the main dish was stew.

SARASOTA (FLORIDA)

The "Eternity Singers" presented the contemporary musical-drama "Light Shine!" on Palm Sunday evening. The group is under the direction of Mrs. Eugene Robbins, with lighting and sound by Jim Wilson and John Hamel.

The message of "Light Shine!" is summed up in Matthew 5:16: "Let your **light shine** before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."



The "Eternity Singers" (photo by Mr. LaVergne Stone).

WORSHIP CENTER PRESENTED TO BRETHREN CARE



New Brethren Care worship center purchased by National BYC (photo by Bruce Ronk).

A service of presentation and dedication was held at Brethren Care, Ashland, Ohio, on June 18 for a new worship center purchased by National BYC. Money for this project was raised during 1972-73 and was brought together during the Ingathering of the 1973 National BYC Convention.

Making the presentation on behalf of the youth was Ken Van Duyne, 1973-74 moderator of the national organization. Accepting the center for Brethren Care and its residents was L. E. Seaman, administrator of the retirement/nursing care facility. Rev. L. V. King, resident chaplain, and Rev. Grover Nutter, resident and assistant to Rev. King, offered words of appreciation on behalf of the staff and residents. Rev. King prayed the dedicatory prayer. The service also included singing by the 1974 Summer Crusaders, Brethren Care residents, and guests, under the direction of Tracy Wilt, Linda Metzger, and Debbie Michael.

The worship center includes a service table with lectern and internal public address system, constructed by Les Young of Park Street Brethren Church. The center also includes several large-print Bibles and hymnals, cross, candlesticks, and communion set.

THINK BEFORE YOU JUDGE

Pray don't find fault with the man who limps
Or stumbles along the road
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears
Or struggled beneath his load.
There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt
Though hidden away from view
Or the burden he bears placed on your back
Might cause you to stumble, too.
Don't sneer at the man who's down today,
Unless you have felt the blow
That caused his fall or felt the same
That only the fallen know.
You may be strong, but still the blows
That were his, if dealt to you
In the selfsame way at the selfsame time
Might cause you to stagger too.

U.S. Navy Chaplain Promoted to Lieutenant Commander



Chaplain Thomas A. Schultz, a U.S. Navy Chaplain was recently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in ceremonies at the U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach, California, where he is presently assigned.

Since entering the Navy Chaplaincy in 1969, Chaplain Schultz has served with Navy and Marine Corps units at Sea, in Japan, Vietnam, and in the states of Washington and California.

Before entering the Navy, Chaplain Schultz served 10 years in Ohio Church Pastorates as well as being a public school teacher and counselor.

He is a graduate of Ashland College, Ashland Theological Seminary, Hamma School of Theology, Wittenberg Graduate School and is a doctorate candidate at Miami University.

Chaplain Schultz has recently been assigned to duty with the ship, The USS CAMDEN (AOE-2) which is being deployed to the Western Pacific.

Mrs. Schultz and their three sons will continue living at their home in Cypress, California.

Chaplain Schultz will be speaking at the 10:30 a.m. service on 11 August 1974, at The First Brethren Church, Pleasant Hill, Ohio. Also, he will attend the General Conference at Ashland College in August.

"Workers Together with God"

NAE Sunday, October 27, 1974

National Association of Evangelicals provides identification for 30,000 local

wide range of ministries proclaim

relations and world relief.

NAE Sunday is designed as a reminder of the part individuals

together with God."

Observe NAE Sunday in your church and receive a free cassette

Participating churches will receive a cassette message "Remembering We Press Forward" by Dr. Clyde W. Taylor at the 1974 NAE Convention

nae

MAIL TO:
National Association of Evangelicals
Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

YES, we will emphasize the ministry of NAE on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27.
Please send us these free NAE Sunday materials

____ copies, *BULLETIN INSERTS*
____ copies of NAE Sunday *POSTERS*
____ copies of *PROFILE (NAE newsletter for churches not now receiving)*

PASTOR _____
CHURCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



KASTNER - MINTON

Beech Mennonite Church in Louisville was the setting for the June 8th wedding rites of Miss Gloria Kristine Kastner and Kevin Lewis Minton. The Rev. Thomas Bishop and the Rev. John Byler officiated.

Parents of the bride are Mrs. Edna Kastner of 409 South Chapel St., Louisville, and the late Karl Kastner. Parents of the bridegroom are Mr. and Mrs. Lewis G. Minton of 405 South St., Louisville, Ohio, who are members of the Canton Trinity Brethren Church.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Corinth Brethren Church, Twelve Mile, Indiana— 5 by baptism

Vinco, Pennsylvania — 6 by baptism, 1 by transfer

Memorials



BECKMAN

Mrs. Arlene (Stegman) Beckman passed away of a heart attack at a Cedar Falls Hospital on June 12, 1974 at the age of 55. She was a member of the First Brethren Church at Waterloo, Iowa. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held at the church on Saturday, June 15, 1974 with Rev. Glenn Grumbling officiating.

* * *

BENNER

Mabel Benner died June 23, 1974 at the age of 88. Memorial services were conducted June 26 at the Greenisen Funeral Home on June 26 by Rev. M. W. Dodds, with burial at Shiffler Cemetery. Mrs. Benner had been a member of the Bryan, Ohio, First Brethren Church since 1912.

* * *

BRENTON

Mr. Art Brenton, 87, went to be with the Lord July 17, 1974. He was a charter member and the first baptized convert of the Sarasota First Brethren Church. He was baptized in the Gulf of Mexico by Rev. Fred Vanator, founding pastor and pastor emeritus. He served over fifteen years as treasurer of the church and a member of the Official Board. Services were held in the sanctuary of Sarasota First Brethren with Dr. J. D. Hamel officiating.

MYERS

Mr. Orr Myers passed away May 30th at Millers Merry Manor Nursing Home, Wabash, Indiana following an illness of 3½ years. He was the son of Edward and Sally May (Derf) Myers and was born in this community and remained a resident of this area. He was a retired employee of the Warner Corporation, and a faithful member of the First Brethren Church.

He was married to Mildred Shock, with whom he celebrated their 61st Wedding Anniversary April 8; and she with a sister Mrs. Beulah Briner survives. Services were held in the Church Sanctuary on June 2nd with the Pastor Woodrow A. Immel officiating.

WESTAFER

Arden LeRoy Westafer passed away suddenly at his home on June 20th. He was the son of Roman and Georgia Westafer.

He is survived by five children, four grandchildren, a brother and a sister, and his mother. He was a member of the First Brethren Church, N. Manchester.

Services were conducted at the DeLaughter Mortuary by Rev. James Overholt. Burial was in Oaklawn Cemetery.

EVANGELIST "BUD" HAMEL TRAVELS NORTH AGAIN

Dr. J. D. (Bud) Hamel, pastor of the Sarasota, Florida First Brethren Church held a six day revival service July 7-12 in West Alexandria, Ohio. The pulpit was on the 50 yard line of the Twin Valley Athletic Field. A selected group of counselors came forward at the altar call for those who made decisions for Christ on the cindertrack. All the counselors were trained in how to use Billy Graham's Bible study booklet, "Knowing Christ" as well as the "Four Spiritual Laws," and the "Good News Glove."

The visible spiritual results of the meeting at the altar were: 5 first time confessions, 68 rededications, for renewal and revival; and 1 for full time Christian service.

At each service the evangelist presented magic object lessons for the children and played the trumpet during the congregational singing. A ministry for the deaf mutes was included in the meeting. The program featured a variety of Gospel singing artists, a volunteer choir, and special song leader Rev. Earl Collins. The pianist was Jerry Winkler, the life guard who was featured in "Fishers of Men," Anita Bryant's book, chapter 3, entitled, "Anneliese's Miracle." It was the evangelist's privilege to be a house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Winkler, Jerry's parents, who were par-excellent host and hostess providing several meals for the evangelist as well as providing for his every comfort. Just two years ago, in July 1972, Mrs. Paul Winkler came forward and walked the cinder track for Jesus in Brother Hamel's meeting with the West Alexandria Brethren. Jeannette Masters was in charge of meals for the evangelist. Some of the special music featured the New Lebanon Trio; the Inspirations; The Stanze Family; The Lockharts from Dayton, Ohio; Phyllis Smith; Rev. Palmen (the singing preacher); Mrs. Mary Wente; Cliff Hutchinson (radio announcer and evangelist); Mrs. Jim Davis; Summers Sisters; Tim Gunsalus; a mixed quartet from West Alexandria; Mrs. Earl Collins; and a vocal solo by our own pianist Jerry Winkler. A special nursery in an air-conditioned camper was provided by the Gunsalus family. Our P.A. system was excellent and was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Robert French, moderator of the West Alexandria Brethren church.

While in Ohio the evangelist met six hours with Secretary Virgil Ingraham, of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, and the "Church Growth Commission" of which he is a member, along with Chairman Rev. Donald Rowser, Rev. Arden Gilmer, and Rev. Russell Gordon at the Dayton, Ohio Airport Inn.

Visitors who attended the meeting were Joan Hamel, summer crusader and intern at the Bryan, Ohio Brethren Church along with Rev. and Mrs. Mike Dodds; Rev. and Mrs. Don Rowser, New Lebanon Brethren; Rev. and Mrs. Bill Walk, Gratis Brethren; Charlotte Henry from Columbus, Ohio; Rev. Combs, Grace Brethren; and a pastor from the Church of God and the Baptist Church in Gratis, Ohio. During the meeting many personal testimonies were given, audible and also written, and read by the pastor concerning the healing and saving ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. These were thrilling moments for evangelist and congregation. Following the closing Friday evening meeting, homemade icecream was served at the church.

A tremendous visitation program was carried on by the energetic and enthusiastic pastor Rev. Herbert Gilmer and his people. Before the meeting they had made hundreds of calls and personal contacts throughout the community and nearby cities. Thousands of hand bills were passed out and placed in prominent places in windows of leading stores and buildings. Three special "blue and white" buses were used to transport the children for the Sunday School sessions and used to announce the meetings. The members and friends of our Brethren Church in West Alexandria were very generous and gracious in their involvement in the witness of Christ during our meetings.

Brethren, these are great days for revival, and every Brethren Church is urged to make these days of agressive evangelism for Christ. People today are willing to listen! Won't you tell them about Jesus? Thank God for Revival.

—Sarasota, Florida
1974

OAKVILLE, INDIANA

A STEP OF FAITH BY ONE WHO CAN'T WALK

A little over a year ago a man in his late fifties was stricken with a devastating disease—Multiple Sclerosis. In a very short time the downward trend, which never stopped, only slowed occasionally, reduced him greatly. He cannot walk. He talks barely above a whisper and that not clearly. His vision is cloudy. He is a man I have grown to love in a real and special way.

During the course of the last year I visited him often. Sometimes we would just chat. On some occasions he would ask questions of a spiritual nature and we would talk about them. He talked also with his wife, but he never gave us any indication of where he was in his own spiritual life. He had a lot of time on his hands. I believe he spent most of it in conversation with the Holy Spirit. As the Holy Spirit conversed with him, Vaughn Simmons was brought to his conviction. He turned to his wife without any warning and said, "I want to be baptized."

A few days later I went to his home and took his confession of faith. Never before was I so certain that it had already been taken care of by the Spirit. I was preparing to explain to him how the Deacons would give special consideration to his physical condition and approve a sprinkling service when he emphatically said, "I want to be immersed!" He had never been in our church building, not even for his wife's baptism. He had little idea of what our service was like. We planned a special service according to his wishes. We cut the legs off an old wooden chair and lashed him to the backrest. The pain in his back and neck is extremely severe and it was important to keep that part of him immobile. With one young deacon, a husky young man on either side, Vaughn's son in back and myself in front we carried him into the baptistry which had been filled as deep as possible. We proceeded to baptize him. We lowered him into the water three times and I bowed his head each time—and he was baptized.

I have participated in and performed many baptismal services. Seldom has one been so meaningful. Not because it was Brethren or triune or even immersion, but because of the firm determination of a man who in spite of all the overwhelming difficulties desired to follow God—the hard way. I don't think we can ever support refusal to obediently follow the leadership of God due to some physical or mental hardship.

Whatever is God's will in Vaughn's life we do not know. Already he has been a witness here and hopefully throughout the church. May God bless Vaughn and his family, the church and all those who seek, as this man has, only God.

J. L. Fields

AFS STUDENT LOOKS FORWARD TO INTERNATIONAL LIVING EXPERIENCE

Clara Bolton will be getting an education this year that won't be available to her in college.

She has been selected to be American Field Service (AFS) exchange student from the Troy Chapter this year.

Clara, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Bolton, 730 Virginia Ave., will be spending the year in Hasselt, Belgium. Prior to arriving in Hasselt in August she may attend a two-week language camp to prepare for her year's stay. Clara is already fluent in German which will be of help.

She will be staying with the Josef Mewis family. There are two girls and a boy. The father is a second grade teacher and the mother is a kindergarten teacher.

While in their host countries they will be following their host family's lifestyle.

"I've received a letter telling me all about them. They like to travel when the children are out of school," said Clara, who's looking forward to travel in Belgium and maybe a few other countries.

"The children attend boarding school from Monday morning until Saturday afternoon, but I may be attending a day school or boarding school," she continued. "I was told to write about the subjects I would be interested in studying because that will help determine what school I will attend."

Right now Clara is interested in studying Belgian history, government, and perhaps home economics, if the course included Belgian cooking. Whichever school she attends, she has already prepared herself for one inevitability—wearing a school uniform.

When the AFS announcement was made at the school, Clara, along with seven other entrants, had one week to fill out and return their applications.

Applicants are chosen on a basis of grades, personality, congeniality, interest, ability to get along with other people, and an ability to adapt to different situations. An applicant must also be proficient in another language.

In addition to applications and interviews, the girls also had to write essays about themselves. Their parents also had to write essays about their daughters telling their good and bad points, what they like and dislike., etc. Host families also have to go through similar procedures.

Clara is planning to attend Ashland College when she returns.

Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Bolton, parents of Clara, are members of the Hillcrest Brethren Church, Dayton, Ohio.

LANARK, ILLINOIS

Over 160 members and guests assembled on a very hot and humid day, Sunday, July 14, 1974, in the First Brethren Church, Lanark, to greet and hear the message of a former pastor, Rev. C. Y. Gilmer. Rev. Gilmer and his wife Ruth, came from their home in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to take part in the church's 90th. anniversary celebration. Rev. Gilmer had served the Lanark church from 1962 until 1966, when he moved and retired.

The present pastor for the past eight years is, Rev. Paul Steiner, who conducted the opening and closing services, as well as introducing the two speakers, Rev. Gilmer, and Rev. Jerry Witt, a former member of the church, and now pastor of the Owl Creek Brethren Church in Bellville, Ohio. Rev. Steiner also noted that a beautiful floral bouquet flanking the altar, was a gift from the Milledgeville First Brethren Church.

Rev. Jerry Witt participated in the services by reading the word of God, using as his text Psalm 40. During a brief period of his reminiscence, Jerry, remembered how nervous he had been when he gave his first sermon at the church as a junior in high school. He reflected on making his first decision to become a minister and said that it was Rev. Gilmer, who had helped him to acquire his first church.

Members Williard Rahn and his wife Ruth, were present from Lake City, Minnesota. Willard admitted to having been a member of the Lanark church for 52 years. It was noted others present probably exceeded that record, but were too shy to be recognized.

Rev. Steiner in his opening presented a little of the beginning history of the church, stating that the church was organized in 1884, by Elder H. R. Holsinger with eight charter members. The first pastor was Z. T. Livingood and members held meetings at the Methodist Church, until the present structure was constructed in 1895.

Steiner said, a considerable amount of remodeling work has been done throughout the years, many in the past two years. Projects include a new narthex with beautiful stained glass picture window of Christ, an enlarged and carpeted pastor's office, new pews and church carpeting, and a new improved sound system, (now being installed) are only a few of the main projects completed and made possible by memorials and gifts.

Rev. Gilmer in delivering the morning message, began with personal greetings to all saying, "It's good to meet again our friends." His sermon text was on Jacob's Ladder and in closing he used Frances Gillmor's "This Is My Church." Special music for the occasion was provided by Julie Martin, who played a selection of sacred medleys on her saxophone, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Max Sisler. Organist for the services was Mrs. Ronald Green. Following the benediction by Rev. Steiner, approximately 150 persons attended the delicious roast beef dinner and fellowship held in the church basement.

by: Bea Vietmeyer,
Corresponding Secretary

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Rev. Buck D. Garrett and family began their ministry on June 2nd in the Fort Scott Brethren Church. We praise God for them, and their ministry.

Edith Culp
Corresponding Secretary

COUNTY LINE
BRETHREN CHURCH

Greetings Fellow Christians:

The special programs and happenings at the County Line Brethren Church in Lakeville, Indiana have been fairly scattered throughout the year.

We were privileged to have the Alpha Theta Team, from Ashland College with us for a weekend. They presented very fine programs.

Also, we were honored to have the "Salvation Show" from Huntington College who presented a musical program.

This year instead of our annual vacation bible school, we experimented with a "learning center." It went over quite well and the children really seemed to enjoy it. Also, three of the children accepted Christ as their Savior and two others for assurance. (Praise the Lord!)

June 9th, the Stout family was with us for the WMS Public Program. Also, one of the activities in the near future is a church picnic to be held at the public park. We will have our supper and Sunday night service there.

Pamela Wicks,
Corresponding Secretary

World Religious News in Review

AFRICAN MINISTER IN CANADA: WHERE ARE THE CHURCHGOERS?

HAMILTON, Ont. (EP)—A Protestant minister from Africa, assigned to missionary work in Canada, has expressed surprise here that a country "which has been so industrious in sending missionaries abroad, "does not show more signs of Christian influence at home."

"I expected to see more going-to-church for example," said the Rev. Elijah K. Kumbama of Zambia, "but churchgoing doesn't seem to be all that popular (in Canada)."

The 41-year-old cleric, a "missionary-at-large from the Third World," who will serve for three years as interim minister of Olivet United Church here, also said he had found a lack of desire among the Canadian Christians he had met "to meet for Bible study and prayer," and "very little evangelism."

Mr. Lumbama, accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, and three of their six children, came to Canada as a result of a joint decision of the United Church of Zambia and the United Church of Canada.

LeSOURD LEAVES GUIDEPOSTS MAGAZINE TO DEVELOP 'CHRISTIAN CENTER'

CARMEL, N.Y. (EP)—Leonard E. LeSourd has resigned the editorship of Guideposts magazine to devote full time to the development of a "creative Christian center" in Lincoln, Va. He has been with the periodical since 1945.

He and his wife, writer Catherine Marshall, plan to announce the objectives and scope of their project in a few months. It is envisioned as a project that will focus around "a Christian publication that would really pick up where Guideposts leaves off, in a sense," Mr. LeSourd said in an interview.

'CHURCHIANITY' IN DECLINE CHRISTIANITY IN RESURGENCE

BUFFALO, N.Y. (EP)—"Churchianity" or the institutional church is in decline but Christianity is in resurgence, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale said in an interview carried in the Buffalo Evening News.

The institutional church went wrong in its concentration on a life-changing emphasis, the famed author/preacher explained. When he was in divinity school, "I foresaw the trend away from the individual application of Christianity toward Christianity as a sociological phenomenon," he was quoted as saying.

Although he was for the latter, Dr. Peale said, "the balance was not maintained. Therefore, people got starved spiritually and dropped out."

DR. SPOCK ENVIES PARENTS WHO 'SEE GOD CLEARLY'

CHICAGO (EP)—Children under six get their concept of God directly from their parents, Dr. Benjamin Spock declared, adding: "I envy the parents who see God clearly and concretely, because they can then explain Him in a way that is easy for a child to understand."

In his fifth article of a 10-part series for the Chicago Daily News the famous pediatrician asserted that "if the parents think of God as being on the stern side, that is how He will be presented and visualized. If the parents think of Him as kindly, the child will too. Children assume that God loves them and wants them to be good. So the parents in a natural way use God to reinforce their own philosophy of morality and discipline."

Dr. Spock stated that if his children had an inclination to go to Sunday school because their friends did, "I would encourage them—as part of their quest for their own solution."

ITALIANS KEEP DIVORCE LAW, REBUFF RULING PARTY, CHURCH

ROME (EP)—A referendum by the Italian people has kept the law permitting divorce.

The vote, 60 to 40 per cent, showed Italians in favor of the law which squeaked through Parliament three and a half years ago to the great displeasure of the Vatican. The vote was also a blow to the wishes of the Christian Democratic Party.

BIBLES FOR AIRLINERS

DALLAS, Tex. (EP)—A program to put free Bibles on board every commercial airline in the United States was launched last week by former astronaut James Irwin.

In 1971, Irwin spent three days on the moon with the Apollo 15 space project. There "God touched my life in a very deep and meaningful way," Irwin was quoted in the Dallas Morning News.

Irwin came back to earth to find the flight "had changed my life."

In 1972, Irwin retired from the military to found an evangelistic crusade in Colorado Springs, Colo., under the name "High Flight." Irwin said he is now sharing the Word of God in various national meetings, plus the new Bibles-on-board aircraft project.

The New Testament in modern English is described as a colorful Bible called, "The Highest Flight." A Dallas couple underwrites cost of the airliner Testaments published by World Home Bible League.

MISSIONARIES TO FORM CRISIS RELIEF TEAMS

BOSTON, Mass. (NAE)—The World Relief Commission (WRC) in a Tuesday night dinner session, disclosed a new reorganization plan to expand its capabilities in times of emergency in any area of the world. The plan is to train crisis oriented teams of missionaries from the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, the Interdenominational Foreign Association and the World Evangelical Fellowship in strategic areas of the world to be prepared for immediate response in times of disaster or emergency need.

Relief funds could be wired to these representatives within a matter of hours of a tragedy, explained Dr. Everett S. Graffam, WRC executive vice president. As no more surplus food is being donated by the government, he pointed out, evangelical churches must replace the dollar value needed to purchase locally raised food near crisis areas at highly escalated prices. In regions such as the African Sahel, where the sixth rainy season has come and gone with no rain, long-range rehabilitation is necessary, said Graffam. Projects such as land reforestation or animal husbandry need to be implemented.

The purpose of the WRC plan of crisis oriented personnel is to keep administrative costs at an absolute minimum. Previous years' reports indicate that 92 cents out of every dollar contributed to WRC was sent overseas in services, goods delivered, personnel and funds (4.3 million dollars in 1973). WRC pledged to report accurately situations that deserve help from evangelical Christians in America and not to engage in exaggerated claims for the sake of fund-raising appeals.

Based in Valley Forge, Pa., the World Relief Commission is the overseas relief arm of the National Association of Evangelicals.

ALCOHOL ABUSE GROWING

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A 219-page report on alcohol and health shows that the United States is losing more than $25 billion a year on alcoholism and related problems. And student abuse of alcoholism is accelerating.

Control laws are not effective in dealing with alcohol problems, added Dr. Morris E. Chafetz. He is director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, chairman of the task force which prepared the report.

Losses come primarily from motor vehicle accidents, medical expenses and lost work time, Dr. Chafetz said in a news briefing.

Figures released show 36 per cent of high school students indicate getting drunk a minimum of four times annually. One in seven high school senior boys claim getting drunk once weekly.

Several recent studies show that occasional teenage drinking is nearly universal, Dr. Chafetz said. A sharp increase in this trend has been recorded in recent years.

The second Department of Health, Education, and Welfare report prepared for Congress in the last four years is an authorative guide to new knowledge, Dr. Chafetz added. He said it is not intended either as a condemnation of alcohol or an endorsement of drinking.

OLYMPIC CHAMPION MAKES COMMITMENT TO CHRIST

SYDNEY, Australia (EP) — Blonde teenager Shane Gould, Australia's top woman swimmer and winner of three gold medals at the 1972 Olympics, has made a public declaration for Christ.

Retired from competitive swimming after her triumphs in Munich, Germany, Miss Shane said in a television interview that she believed 'Christ's way was the right way."

She has no evangelistic ambitions "to be a second Billy Graham," Miss Shane declared, but hopes to help others by setting the right example.

NAE AFFILIATE IS LARGEST MISSIONS ASSOCIATION ACCORDING TO 1973 TOTALS

BOSTON, Mass. (NAE)—According to figures issued earlier this year the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (EFMA) is now the largest national missions association in the world. Now totaling 69 member agencies and 7,074 missionaries, the EFMA, an affiliate of the NAE, disclosed this information in its annual report to the NAE Board of Administration here Monday. The missionary figure, as listed in the **Mission Handbook: North American Protestant Ministries Overseas,** recorded EFMA as the largest by measure of the number of member missions and aggregate number of North American missionaries in active service in other parts of the world. Dr. Milton Baker, president of EFMA and overseas secretary for Africa of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, indicated in his report to the NAE board that missionaries serving EFMA missions, including Europeans, total 8,400.

FIRST WOMAN CHAPLAIN COMMISSIONED IN ARMY

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—The Rev. Alice M. Henderson has been commissioned the first woman chaplain in the United States Army.

The 29-year-old Georgia native is undergoing nine weeks of training at Ft. McPherson, Ga., before assignment as a captain. She is a minister of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

She enrolled July 9 in the U.S. Army Chaplains' Center and School at Ft. Hamilton, Brooklyn.

Women chaplains were accepted last year in both the Navy and Air Force.

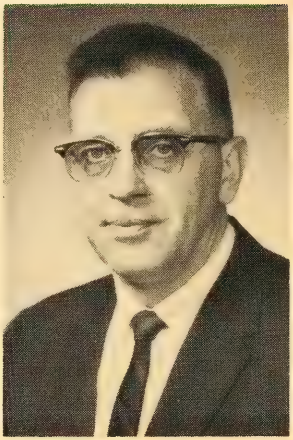
CITY BOARD OF HEALTH SUPPORTS BROAD BAN ON 'PUBLIC' SMOKING

NEW YORK (EP)—The New York City Board of Health has approved "in principle" a ban on smoking in supermarkets and elevators, and segregation in large restaurants, classrooms and other public places.

Dr. Lowell E. Bellin, the city's health commissioner and chairman of the Board of Health, said formal approval of the proposal is expected to be given at the June board meeting. The smoking ban could go into effect Oct. 1.

Under the proposed resolution, there would be a total ban on smoking in supermarkets and elevators.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH



by Charles Lowmaster

What is the mission of the church? If you cannot readily answer that question, then please read on! Any achievement in life is dependent upon three principles:

1) an understanding of the purpose or goal
2) a desire for its attainment
3) an active participation in a plan for attaining it.

Church growth is one of life's achievements that cannot be attained without the application of these principles.

CHURCH GROWTH IS POSSIBLE!

Did you know that the Assemblies of God Church in Latin America has grown more in one month than our whole denomination has grown in ten years?

Why is this? What is the secret? If the principle of this and other growing churches are examined, it reveals their secret to be a joyful, unified spirit and a preparation of every member for the use of their God given gifts for spiritual ministry.

Jesus, Himself, outlined the principles of a vital growing church ministry in the great commission when He said, "Go into the world, preach the gospel, baptize, and teach them to obey all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I will be with you."

Let's look at the four principles involved in this text: **Evangelism.** "As you go, preach." As you are going about your daily tasks, you are to be preaching the Gospel. **Response.** When you have preached you ought to baptize those who respond. **Teach.** After a new believer has been integrated into the fellowship of believers we are to teach him. **Nurture.** There has to be a training for evangelism or witness. Here is the bottleneck in stagnant churches. There is no evangelism program. There is no objective for nuture or training people for ministry. The four principles of Jesus form a circle and you can see this circle develop as Jesus develops it with His disciples. It was the secret of growth in the early church and is still the principle of growth for today.

Jesus was the first evangelist. He began evangelism and He intended that it should continue through all of those who were evangelized. The motivation of Jesus centered in His vision and His commitment to the kingdom of God. Whenever Jesus talked, His message of evangelism was always about the kingdom of God which is coming. At one time He said, "it is with you, it is within you, if you receive what I have to say." He said that it is a kingdom of peace, of blessing. "Don't lay up your treasures on earth where moth and rust doth corrupt and thieves break thru and steal. You have to catch a vision of what is coming in the future, when I come again in judgment, to receive my people, and to give them that kingdom." It was the vision of that kingdom, which Jesus was building, that was His motivating power. This is where the church has lost its sense of purpose. We have lost sight of the fact that we are to be a part of a kingdom and that it is up to us to build that kingdom. Thus we have lost our sense of purpose and have given priority to mundane, temporal things that are going to pass away one of these days.

The power for evangelism lies in the Holy Spirit. If Jesus had not had that Spirit without measure, don't you think that Satan would have reached him in the wilderness after he'd been 40 days and 40 nights and afterward hungered? Satan said, "now I know you are hungry, Jesus. You have power to change these stones into bread. Why don't you do it and I'll give **you** something too." Isn't that what we're tempted to do? To turn stones into bread and fall down and worship and receive the things of the kingdom of **this** world? But Jesus had the Holy Spirit in such measure that this was His power. Jesus was not afraid of Satan or of men. He stood boldly and fearlessly against kings, religious leaders and anyone who wanted to oppose him. This is the dynamic—that other dimension—which the Holy Spirit can give to us. We are to fear God and love men. But many claim they love God and fear men and that combination will not work in our evangelism of others. "Why is it that we fail to witness to the things that God has done for us? Do you not hear, "I'm afraid of what he will think of me"—"What he will say?" We claim to love God but we fear men.

Aren't we concerned too much about what other people will think about us? Why is it that we don't speak to our neighbor about Christ and about the joy we have found in our faith? Maybe we haven't found the joy! But isn't our fear the fear that they'll think we're kind of kooky or a fanatic? Let them think it! We claim to love God but we fear men! Jesus loved all men.

We have said, "evangelism began with Jesus," the dynamic motivation was His vision of the kingdom, "the power was the Holy Spirit with Him" but the effectiveness of Jesus' evangelism was the place He chose for preaching. He preached to the lost in the streets and in the synogogues, but mainly in the streets. Jesus sent His disciples out to preach. He sent them to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." They went from house to house and town to town and preached the gospel. This is the churches problem today. We don't **go** —we **preach**! We don't go anywhere—we gather in churches instead of going out to the lost sheep, we preach to the sheep in the sheepfold. Therefore evangelism is thwarted and the cork is in the bottle of church growth. If we don't have anybody coming in, we teach the same people over and over again until they get tired and eventually drop out or grow stagnant. But, instead of going to, or bringing the lost sheep, we expect them to come to us. "The services are here and if they want it, they'll come." THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE! If the sheep recognized the sheepfold they wouldn't be lost or need a shepherd.

What our churches need is a shepherding program. When a new family comes, assign some people to them to help to nurture and encourage them. Integrate them into the fellowship. If you preach the gospel to somebody he is going to have to be preached to again. Our faith will not usually grow very strong if we isolate it from the fellowship of the church.

Jesus said when we evangelize and baptize them we are to teach but also nurture. Nurture involves the following:

renewal of the mind—Romans 12:1-2
sending out to practice what is learned
a new spirit—"Tarry until ye receive power."
preparation for ministry.

This preparation for ministry is important for church growth. We teach, and teach, but if that knowledge and training you have received does not result in some kind of a witness to people around you, you'll just continue to sit in a habitual pattern of passive listening.

Jesus' objective for the church was not passive fellowship where people come and sit in pews, listen to the preacher and go home. His objective was dynamic discipleship! Does our faith, our worship, our church seem very dynamic? Does it enthuse us? Or is it something we endure?

Church growth is a continuing, multiplying spiral of these principles in action. If you destroy any one of these principles you have stopped the growth of the church. Our challenge is to revise the flow!—Cut off non-productive programs, have a loyolty enlistment of members, and a follow-up, shepherding program within our church. I'm sure some will say it can't be done.

"It Couldn't Be Done"

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;
At least no one ever has done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done.
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in, with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

—Edgar A. Guest

Rev. Charles B. Lowmaster is the pastor of the First Brethren Church of Louisville, Ohio. He is a member of the Missionary Board of The Brethren Church.

"THE OTHER SIDE"

As the little girl tripped along at her father's side on an evening walk, she kept looking up at the stars. Though apparently fascinated, she made no comment. Finally her father asked what she was thinking about. "If the bottom side of Heaven is so beautiful," replied the child, "how wonderful the other side must be."

W. E. Golden
from The Gratis Lamplighter

". . . BUT THE DUNKERS WEEP"

by Marcus Miller

Marcus Miller is an M.D. in Corington, Ohio and wrote the article for two reasons. First, as he explains, "that my brethren not lose that religious feeling and experience which I believe to be an important manifestation of regeneration and that the true manifestation of the presence of the Spirit of God be not replaced by a counterfeit acceptable to mankind but not to God."

This article is reprinted with the permission of THE VINDICATOR from its May 1974 issue Vol. CV No. 5.

Sometime back, in speaking with a brother, the conversation turned to the feelings and emotions manifested in religious experience. As we talked about the expression of religious feelings, he mentioned that when he was younger in the area of the country where he came from, there was a common saying that many of the local church groups shout, "but the Dunkers weep."

I have turned this over and over in my mind in the past year and find there is far more than superficial meaning here. Those with whom I have shared this have suggested various reasons as to why they think the Dunkers weep.

First let us look back over the years and compare them with today. The brother in his conversation mentioned that tears are not so much in evidence as they were years ago, and we feel this is also true in the past quarter of a century we can remember. We can well recall the "farewell addresses" and other sermons delivered with power. Sometimes every heart was moved, and hardly an eye was dry. Why? Today we do not see this display of emotion so often. Why not? Yet still today we often enough see and hear evidence of the spirits of men and women being moved by the Spirit of God. Again, why with weeping?

Let us say now that tears are not to be considered evidence of weakness in the sense we usually understand it. Again, weeping is not the same as crying. The latter is associated with the physical needs of a child or an adult. Crying is a louder lament, calling for aid of one sort or another, while weeping is a part of the physical manifestation of various emotions. Weeping may be silent—simply the quivering lip or the tear-filled eye. It may be in sorrow, but it may just as well be for joy. And this brings us to the question, "Why do the Dunkers weep?"

The religious experience is not easy to set down in words. It is a feeling difficult to convey by sentences, either spoken or written. It is born out of a knowledge of sins forgiven. It is the awareness that Jesus, our Lord, took upon Himself the body of sinful flesh and, holy and righteous as He was, suffered unspeakably for our sakes. When one contemplates the pity He showed for us, the heart is moved with emotion which rises from the bosom and gathers in the eyes. The weeping of which we speak is not an ungrounded emotional fire fanned to a flame of irrational sentimentalism. To the prophet of old, God was not in the wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire. God was in the still small voice. (I Kings 19:12.) This is the religious experience of which we speak. And when this still small voice speaks to the Dunkers, it has been for many generations manifested in weeping. One of the author's ancestors of the late seventeen hundreds was known in eastern Pennsylvania as the weeping preacher because he never rose to his feet to speak without weeping.

Let us look further into the emotions manifested by those professing Christianity today. One said to me, "Do you feel it, brother?" And again I was asked, "But do you really feel it?" The implication was that I did not feel what he thought I should feel, and his doubt was fostered by the fact that my feelings had not been manifested by shouting, prophesying, and speaking in tongues. This brings us to thoughts on the "charismatic movement," which has become popular in professed Christendom in the past decade or so. We think it is very pertinent to our subject, and to the old saying that "Some churches shout, but the Dunkers weep."

The charismatic movement takes its name from the word charisma, which means "a quality of leadership that inspires great popular allegiance." In theology it represents an alleged divinely inspired gift such as tongues, prophecies, and healings. It is often associated with emotionalism and shouting, with strong references to manifestations of fire, ominously reminiscent of Rev. 13 and the two-horned dragon beast which is to make fire come down from heaven. Now they tell me that if I don't "feel the spirit" I don't have it, and I don't have the spirit if I don't prophesy, speak in tongues, or shout for joy.

Such emotionalism, of course, inspires "great popular allegiance." It now cuts across church creeds and fellowships, and has swept into its ranks people of all walks and stations of life. This form of neo-Pentecostalism, however, seems incompatible with the tenor of the Gospel and of Brethren thinking. So now there is even more meaning to the saying that "The other churches shout, but the Dunkers weep."

"Feeling" and religious experience is not new among Christian believers, including the Brethren. Its manifestation, however, has tended to be meek and mild. As in the time of Christ, His followers today should not be of a generation seeking a sign. Anyone seeking the Spirit of God should beware of the alleged divinely inspired signs, for Satan also (or perhaps only) will work wonders before men. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." II Cor. 11:14, 15.

The expression of emotion varies from individual. While to some the feelings of the heart are near the surface and easily become evident, to others emotional control has become a part of their personality from childhood. We find no fault with either. We feel, however, that the expression of emotion may or may not be consistent with the Christ-like life. It is recorded that Jesus wept on at least two occasions. There were other times when He was deeply moved, but we know of no place recorded where He made a great show of shouting, or even of speaking in tongues. The meek and quiet spirit is with Him of great price. As the hymn writer said, "To Him there's music in a groan, and beauty in a tear."

To those who are aware of the influence of the charismatic movement, let us simply say that we see great danger in it. Do not be led away by this form of spirit. There is a place for religious feeling, as there has been through the centuries. There is no reason why suddenly in this latter day a new manifestation should become evident. We feel, rather, that a search of the Scriptures will show the tenor of both the Old and New Testaments to support the observation that ". . . the Dunkers weep."

"The Bible Says"



Miss Helen Barnhart

To be saved—to inherit eternal life—
You must confess your sins to Christ,
He can save, forgive and cleanse from sin,
Nothing you do can be hidden from Him.
To be saved—to inherit eternal life—
You must call on Him in a prayer sincere,
And know and believe
He is ever near.
To be saved—to inherit eternal life—
Receive Him in this very hour,
As sons of God
He'll give you power.
To be saved—to inherit eternal life—
You must know you sin every day of your life.
The saving cannot be done by you,
Only by grace—God's gift—'Tis true.
To be saved—to inherit eternal life—
You must understand why He came as man
to give His life,
That was the plan.
You'll be saved
And peace you'll find,
Have eternal life
With this change of mind.

Acts 3:19—Repent ye therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of God.

Copyright Helen Barnhart 1974

CHEEP ADVICE



Happy indeed is the man who is able to see the problem, and is able to be a part of the cure, rather the cause.

Brush Valley News Bulletin

When God puts a tear in your eye; it's because He wants to put a rainbow in your heart!

Don't give til it hurts. Give til it HELPS!

The best thing to do behind a persons back is "pat it."

Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble.

The most destructive acid in the world is found in a sour disposition.

Lord, let me be just a NOBODY telling EVERYBODY about SOMEBODY who can save ANYBODY.

St. James Newletter

The bigger a man's head gets, the easier to fill his shoes.

We can praise the Lord for human nature, but when we see some of its characteristics shouldn't we also praise the Lord that all nature isn't human?

A Short Course in Human Relations

The SIX Most Important Words:
"I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE"
The FIVE Most Important Words:
"YOU DID A GOOD JOB"
The FOUR Most Important Words:
"WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?"
The THREE Most Important Words:
"IF YOU PLEASE"
The TWO Most Important Words:
"THANK YOU"
The ONE Most Important Word:
"WE"
The LEAST Important Word:
"I"

from Bryan, Ohio Newsletter

LAFF-A-LITTLE

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY—40% of income is for food, 30% for clothing, 30% for shelter and 20% for amusement and entertainment. That adds up to 120%. O.K., you figure it out.

A fact which should be in all marriage counseling books but probably isn't is that when a man and woman marry, they are to be one. True, but when it comes to making the decision which is the one, the trouble usually starts.

Automobile owner to Service manager in Garage:" The only thing that isn't noisy on the car is the part that is supposed to be, the horn."

Rev. J.M. in Maryland was calling Rev. W.A. in California long distance and the operator asked, "Is this a Station to Station call?" "No," said Rev. J.M., "Parson to Parson."

The telephone company suggests that progress isn't always for the best. As an example, smoke signals never got anyone out of bed at three in the morning to answer a wrong number.

A boy came home from school with his report card and as he handed it to his father he said, "Dad, look it over real carefully and see if I can sue for defamation of character."

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Southwest District Conference Organization

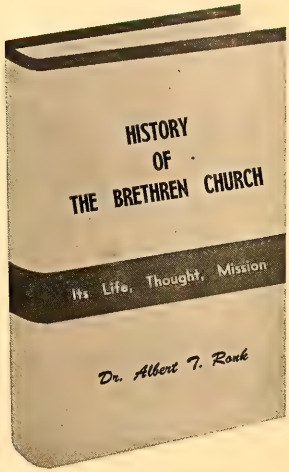
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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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NOTES and COMMENTS

To: All the Brethren

From: Pennsylvania District Mission Board

Subject: Church Growth—Help "Grow" a Church

The Pennsylvania District Mission Board is taking steps to begin a new work within the District and is making an effort to have some groundwork done in this next year.

Do you know any Brethren families or persons that have moved into or live in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or Delaware areas where there is no Brethren Church? If so, please send the names and addresses of such persons as soon as possible to:

Rev. Joseph Hanna, Sec'y.
Pa. Dist. Mission Board
230 Main Street
Meyersdale, Pa. 15552

This issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST carries the message presented by Moderator Paul Steiner to the 86th. General Conference of the Brethren Churches held in Ashland, Ohio August 13th. He had travelled extensively throughout the denomination during his tenure as Moderator visiting many local churches and District Conferences. His observations made during these visits prompted his message "Vision, Venture, and Victory" which is published in its entirety on pages 4 to 9 of this issue.

A compilation of the results received by him pertaining to the survey made in a recent Moderator's Manna column has been made and will be published in a near future issue.

By the Way

THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

by W. St. Clair Benshoff



"HEY MAN, Give me your mind!" This is what the world is saying to every man, woman and child today. By use of every media available, the mind and thought of each of us is being competed for.

Not the least of the media is that of the printed page. Countless thousands of tons of paper, ink and type are used every day to convey ofttimes malicious, sagacious, treacherous, inciting and mind-bending thoughts and ideas. Often the best of materials and procedures are used, regardless of cost, to convey the products of warped, obscene and inciting minds to the multitudes of people. This evil filth is available in every form of printing in our magazines, newspapers and materials, in response to the Satanic plea, "Hey, man, give me your mind!"

Into this arena, also seeking the mind, that the mind and heart might be won to Jesus Christ, is Christian literature. Often at great personal sacrifice, the Christian printed page is produced that men everywhere might hear of God who loves and saves and keeps, those who come to Him for salvation.

The success or failure of this program in the Brethren Church depends on how well we respond to the needs of our literature program. The same things affecting all of our lives—inflation, high costs, etc.—affect the production of our Christian literature at the Brethren Publishing Company.

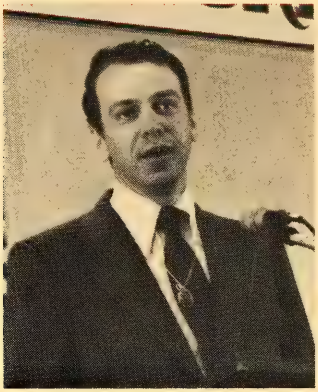
You can help to stabilize this program of the production of good Christian literature by your prayerful and financial support of the Brethren Publishing Company. Help us reach the mind—and heart—of many for Christ through our Christian literature by your continued and increased financial support.

By outright cash gifts, in your will, and through your continued concerned stewardship in support of the Brethren Publishing Company, you can have a realistic and eternal part in helping your church reach the minds and hearts of mankind for Christ.

"Hey, man, give me your mind!" is no idle call. The way to the heart is through the mind. Christian literature helps to bring people to Christ.



"VISION, VENTURE AND VICTORY"



Moderator's address presented at the 86th General Conference of the Brethren Church in Ashland, Ohio August 13, 1974 by Rev. Paul Steiner, Pastor of The First Brethren Church, Lanark, Illinois.

Greetings to all the Brethren in the name of Jesus Christ. I bring you personal greetings from Dr. John Locke, Maurertown, Virginia. I bring you greetings from our Christian friends in other Christian circles of service. God has been blessing us throughout the year. It has been good to praise the Lord and give thanks for God's provision of sharing and communicating with Christian people all across this land. I feel gratitude for being able to represent the denomination at many District conferences, conventions, seminars and churches. Life has many expressions of beauty. The life in Christ Jesus is a precious gift. We praise God for caring and bestowing strength and power for being able to travel. I want to thank the Lanark Brethren Church for their support, prayers and team ministry that made this year a tremendous experience. To all the Brethren for Christian hospitality and fellowship I express sincere appreciation.

The theme for this 86th General Conference is "ONE BODY IN CHRIST." This is a good follow-up to "PRAISE THE LORD." Yes, we must praise the Lord as "One Body in Christ." I Corinthians chapter 12 is a beautiful portrait of the Church, God's colony. In my travels this year I have discovered that as a Church we are, as Paul describes, one body in Christ with various supporting parts in spite of differences, disagreements and diversity. We have only one message to share—Jesus is the Son of God, who was born, lived, died, rose again and is coming again. That Gospel creates and possesses us as we are "ONE BODY IN CHRIST," Living, Learning and Loving.

Consider by analogy the way in which the human body is put together. The body is not one member, but many, and each part has need of the others in order to function properly. The eye, the hand, the foot, the ear, the nose, all work together in coordination. There is no division.

So it is with the body of Christ which is the Church. God has set in the Church apostles, prophets, healers, teachers, and others, each with a different function. They are to work in mutual interdependence, and to care

one for another. This is the cause of evangelical Christianity.

A Dutch fable tells about three tulip bulbs named "No," "Maybe," and "Yes" that lived in the bottom of the bin. When autumn came they speculated concerning their destiny. **NO** said, "I shall stay in my snug corner of the bin. I don't believe there is any other life for tulip bulbs. Besides, I am satisfied with things as they are." And the bulb rolled over and went to sleep.

MAYBE said, "I am not satisfied with things as they are I feel there is a better life than the life I now have. I feel something inside of me which I must achieve and I believe that I can achieve it." So the bulb squeezed, pressed and pressed itself until it was utterly frustrated.

Then **YES** said, "I have been told that we can do nothing of ourselves but that God will fulfill our destiny if we put ourselves in God's power."

A hand reached down into the tulip bin for bulbs. "Yes" yielded to the hand and was buried in the ground. "No" and "Maybe" shriveled away untouched in their corners of contentment and frustration. And with the coming of spring, "Yes" burst forth into all the richness and loveliness of new life.

This fable applies to the Church and speaks personally concerning God's power and potential in my life. It seems to me that the Brethren Church has some "No," "Maybe," and "Yes" people. Let us seek and encourage the "Yes" potential of the Brethren Church, for it is in this viable group of God's colony that the action of this decade will generate. It is the "Yes" group that will solicit and yield to God's vision (Living), God's venture (Learning), and God's victory (Loving). Let us explore the concepts of Vision, Venture, and Victory for the Brethren Church in 1974-75.

GOD'S VISION: We must discover the truth anew, "Where there is no vision the people perish." (Prov. 29:18) Someone said, "When you fill the pulpit you will fill the pews." We need God's vision of ministry. The ministry is a calling. It is not our choice, but our surrender to a cause. As Paul said, "I am apprehended of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12). If we believe we have been apprehended then let us get on with the enlistment of persons Christ is busy apprehending around us for Christian discipleship. We must touch them where they hurt with the living touch of Jesus in worship, in study, at work, and at home.

We need pastors with God's vision. Pastoral vision means a ministry with muscle. We need sensitive pastors who are not just hummin' away on Sunday morning; up answering questions nobody is asking; dealing in trifles of the past week. We don't need someone who is just keeping shop for the onlookers, or a pastor who is invisible during the week and incomprehensible on Sunday. We need pastor-preachers of vision who have living sermons to live by and messages that communicate and motivate people where they are to where God wants them. The sensitive pastor of vision spends many hours evaluating and understanding God's colony. The pastor seeks to discover the potential and possibilities of the people. All churches have some problems, but the main thrust of the sensitive pastor will be to reach through lives and carefully weigh the problems and bring the potential and possibilities to a viable encounter with humankind.

Dr. McClellan in his book **"Share the Word Now"** says, "The verile pulpit knows the secret of abundant life and can tell the seekers where to find it—The Bible, for it is an open manual of abundant living, and the power of that living is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The truly adequate defenders of the pulpit know how to speak about God's power because they have lived it." (p. 126) They can say with Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 3:14). When the pastor is alive to the daily needs of God's people there will be a burden from the Lord, a heavensent flame and a whispering breath of the Spirit to share.

The ministry with muscle is daily digging God's nuggets of truth for life and proclamation. When there is no digging the ministry of muscle loses its grip and dynamic and on Sunday morning the messenger's message becomes a lukewarm drip from the unperked pulpit. Let us return to the task and declare the adventures and affirmations of God.

We need people with God's vision. You are the ministry in mission. The small collections of sensitive people in every local church is to carry on the

life of Jesus Christ in this world. These sensitive people of vision are ministering daily rather than waiting to be ministered unto. You are "the salt of the earth," "the light of the world," "the good seed in the good soil," and "the branches of the true vine." You are "Ambassadors for Christ" — communicating the living message to every person through the **living touch.**

You see discipleship as responding to the infectious viable communiques of Jesus Christ. You see mission as not only going, but mission as sharing as you go and where you go. You are Jesus people and you are living Christ's example. You love rather than distrust people. You covet for others the blessings God has brought your way without acts of self-righteousness. You are not afraid to give yourselves in personal ministries that tire, hurt, discourage and sometimes tears you away from your families.

In Luke 5:17-26 we discover four friends bringing a crippled man to Jesus via the roof while Jesus was teaching. People of vision who are sensitive to the task before them will use their imagination, ingenuity, and incentive to search out the possibilities and potential of their mission. We don't dare allow four walls and a roof to thwart our Christian mission. Let us practice persistence and perspective to bring the presence of Christ to the seeking collection of warm bodies.

We need pastors and people with God's vision of power. The world calls this power magic. The Church knows it as the ministry of magnificence. The Early Church was astounded by its penetrating effect. It transformed a notorious Saul to a noble Apostle Paul.

In November of 1965, the nation was shocked by a gigantic power failure in the northeastern section of the United States. That whole section of the country was suddenly plunged into darkness. It had everything necessary for electrical power: sources of power, transformers, wires, electrical receptables, appliances, switches, light bulbs and fuse boxes. It had everything necessary for electricity, except the power. The Church has everything necessary for spiritual power, but do we let the power show its beauty.

Pastors and people must be sensitive to the power available in the Holy Spirit and use the power. We must realize and recognize, as did Philip (Acts 8:1-13), the availability of that power. We don't have to go back to the spectacular display of Pentecost and its mighty manifestations. The ministry of magnificence is evident among us and in us. Praise God for the power, then act and live that power through the living touch in God's colony.

The Church is the Body of Christ. Each person is not able to perform the same function, but each person must perform his or her function through the power. It does not matter that my function or my church is not as glamorous as yours, but that all of us together are able to perform the ministry of magnificence because we are sensitized and energized by the Spirit with God's vision of "ONE BODY IN CHRIST."

GOD'S VENTURE Venture No. 1: A venture for the Brethren Church is growth. If we are going to move out with God, we need the go and glow Christians, not the come and crab comrades. Could we be the indigenous church in this decade raised up by the Spirit of God to evangelize the lost and seeking humanity? The cold structured church suffers for lack of breathing fresh air. An indigenous church will always be the living response of people to the life demands of Christ's message.

Like an amoeba, God's colony must be able to change shape and envelope its mission without destroying its basic constituency. Our objective to be the people of God on mission, must remain unalterably the same. But our methods and organization patterns must be in a state of continual revision. For our purpose is to meet humankind's spiritual needs in an ever-changing cultural context. I believe this applies directly to the Brethren church as it seeks to reach persons of various and diversified cultural influences of the metropolis or in the Southwest, USA. Pastors and local leadership need to be given freedom to experiment with methods and media to share the Good News. We need to be understanding and act creatively and constructively in wisdom with our prayerful support for these new colonies that may or may not fit our fixed stereotype patterns of the past or present.

We have some stagnate churches, but just as the stagnate pool takes on new water—thus new life for the fish and new activity. God's colony has taken

on new life and is beginning to grow and feed the indifferent and unconcerned collection of warm bodies. It is like the glass of water on the communion table, poured an hour before the service and is now warm. Someone ventures to put an ice cube in the glass and it has new zing. The content is the same, but there is new response from the partaker. Our church has experienced some new ice cubes in the past few years and several churches show some zing. Praise be unto God!

I took part in a Church Growth Seminar in Cleveland, Ohio last spring as did others of you. The consensus of that group was that the Brethren Church can grow **IF**:

1. Vigorous "growth-minded" leadership can be developed at the denominational, pastoral, and lay levels.
2. Adequate motivation is available through the Holy Spirit and can be generated to do the work of evangelism.
3. A vision of church growth can be instilled in the Church.

There is an urgency for the action of the real church to continue erupting at the local colony. God shall venture with us and enable us to function as a team on every level of leadership throughout the Brethren Church to visibly experience church growth where you are through evangelism.

The idea of all church growth is spontaneity. This is the law of life and of the Spirit. Churches that really grow are responding spontaneously to the life of God in their midst. Dr. Win Arn and Pastor Gilmer's **Laymen Alive,** can provide stimulation and challenge to not merely do our work for God, but to do God's work as God works through us. Indeed God works ahead of us to prepare the way, beside us to help us, and behind us to correct the mistakes we make. Ultimately the responsibility for church growth belongs to the individual persons in the local colony under the direction of dynamic, spirit-filled leaders. We must use available training resources, but the growing must be done by the Spirit-endowed collection of warm bodies in local communities.

The growth of any colony will be in direct proportion to its ability to mobilize the entire group for evangelization. In order for this to occur we need to understand commitment as something taking place rather than something completed. It is a life experience of surrendered service in Christ's school of discipleship, not the auditing of a course nor of being a spectator at an event. Church growth is spontaneous commitment of Christian discipleship. Where are these hungry-hearted happy pilgrims? My recommendation in regard to Church Growth is—Brethren let it happen in the power of God. Don't try to program it!

Venture No. 2: To help us in this growth venture I believe God has planned, allow me this suggestion that the Brethren Church promote and renew among its churches the old biblical practice of team ministry. We have churches that need to have a team ministry. We have churches that need to have a team ministry if they are going to fulfill God's vision for them. Some can begin with part-time persons sharing the ministry. Others should seriously consider two or three full time ministers to become effective in community ministry. We must think in terms of men and women for all these positions.

It is time to encourage our women and men to listen and respond to God's call. Young people must seek out adequate Seminary training for the task and our churches need to plan for additional persons for the ministry in their projected growth plan. Several small churches located in clusters could give prime consideration to a team ministry. God's growth will mean more church members. It will mean giving consideration to team ministry in your church. My recommendation is —Let us encourage women and men to engage in team ministry as ordained persons or as lay persons.

Venture No. 3: The Missionary Board of the Brethren Church believes that evangelism is top priority for their existence. They seek to send persons able to evangelize people in all areas of the world. It appears we may be losing sight of part of the command of Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (NIV).

Since the Brethren Church has no Board of Evangelism, it is my belief that our church believes the Missionary Board acts as the evangelism arm of

the Church. Therefore, the Missionary Board should be concerned with the evangelism of Jerusalem as well as the ends of the earth. Then the 2000 students across the street from its own offices needs to be a mission field as well as India or Africa. We have been bringing criticism against the College community for not doing the work of evangelism and perhaps it is quite legitimate, but for us to sit and moan and not send qualified persons into this mass is to deny the mission of the church. Let us not fumble the ball any longer but encourage the Missionary Board to fulfill it's commission pronto —NOW! My recommendation concerning Venture No. 3 is to encourage the Missionary Board to seriously consider getting into the game where the action is on Ashland College Campus funding the Campus Ministry.

Venture No. 4: "The Brethren Church in India requests the Moderator of the Brethren Church to consider the following suggestions and place them before the General Conference of 1974.

A. To include all the members of the Brethren Church in various parts of the world in counting the total membership of our denomination.
B. To call the General Conference as "International Conference of the Brethren Church."

K. Prasantha Kumar, May 22, 1974

As Moderator I heartily concur and recommend that suggestion **A** be adopted by this 1974 Conference and referred to Conference Statistician for implementation.

I recommend in regard to suggestion **B** that Central Council with the counsel of the Polity Committee work out necessary action for consideration of adoption at the 1975 General Conference.

GOD'S VICTORY: God's vision will take a lot of living. God's venture will create a growing learning encounter. God's victory will come as we live the loving life of Christ. We can never be a part of the victory rally without sharing in evangelism. This is God's means of victory. Elton Trueblood said, "Evangelism is . . . the unrelenting responsibility of every person who belongs, even in the most modest way, to the company of Jesus." Someone else said, "Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to discover spiritual food."

The church has one mission for victory. It is to proclaim the good news of salvation to people. Telling them of forgiveness and reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. It will be done in three basic ways.

1. Presence Evangelism
2. Action Evangelism
3. Verbal Evangelism

Let it be sufficient to say that all of these are effective methods alone, but there are times when all must be used together and there are times when we must use God's wisdom in selecting the method for God's victory. We have spoken too often when we should have been silent and we have been silent when we should have spoken. When we speak without presence and action we are less than Christian disciples. But to remain silent when we should speak is cowardice. The victory in witnessing is simply sharing Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

Biblical evangelism is the total gospel for the total being. Nothing in our lives can be left untouched by it. True salvation is a response of the total person to God, a commitment to God's will, and a surrender to God's call to share in the victory rally. Perhaps the Brethren Church has suggested a commitment to a set of rules and not to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Have we clogged our membership lists with persons who came by the rules, but who don't care or realize they must get into God's victory rally of sharing the Good News with other persons? Please evaluate your local colony!

We are in God's colony by faith. Faith is saying yes to God and accepting what God gives us. God never promised faith would be without conflict and pain. Faith is not blind to reality: evil in the world, hypocrisy in the church, weakness and infidelity in oneself, revolution in society, and change in the whole human situation. Faith in Christ focuses upon Jesus Christ who does not change but who is the "same yesterday, today, and forever." The Christian with this kind of faith will not be skeptical, cynical, jittery, or in love with the world. This collection of warm bodies will declare the victory rally to be in progress and they are outside hanging out the Good News passes before the final moment —when the trumpet shall sound, and all who know it's sound shall gather in God's presence.

What do the Brethren have to shout about this year. We have much to give glory to God. I mention these . . .

1. Church Growth — 231, Church Growth Seminar & Resources.
2. India Mission Growth and Expansion.
3. Youth Summer Crusaders Potential.
4. Brethren Care Involved with people.
5. Brethren Study Together — Seek Resolution on Baptism Memorial.
6. Board Group Sharing and Cooperating in purpose.
7. New Mission Work in Colombia springing to life.
8. Campus Ministry Exploring Potential.
9. Brethren Welcome Moderator's Visits to District Conferences.
10. Central Council moves into projection of forward thrust for the Church instead of house-keeping chores.

BRIEF STATEMENT CONCERNING THE **MANNA SURVEY**:

The Brethren believe that a prime concern is the teaching of the Holy Scriptures. Brethren believe the Holy Scriptures are God's inspired Word. The Brethren Church believes that Biblical doctrines are open to new discoveries as they are tested (examined) through study. Yes, Jesus Christ did establish the true Church. Brethren talk more of their problems than of their power. We need to reverse this trend with some of God's vision for God's Brethren colony.

We have no official version for the Church (though some think it is the King James), but all versions should be studied in the light of the Hebrew and Greek texts. The Brethren Church believes in Biblical authority. For this we praise God, because we can with assurance study and examine our teachings and know with full assurance new light will be based upon Biblical theology—God's inspired Word. All churches have inconsistencies, sometimes due to rash superficial study, or cultural-political pressure of the time. Let us be faithful in study and research of doctrine in our era in the light of new evidence and truth. Let us be seeking and searching by the Holy Spirit in this generation. None of us are so old we cannot receive new light from the God of all truth. Let us share ventures of faith with other Christians in order that all might soon learn about Jesus Christ.

Richard L. Cookson has some good advice for us in a poem.

"A NEW WORLD COMING"

"There's a new world coming
and it asks only for
hearts to be open to
feel the beat of
life stirring from the
ashes of today's failures.
There's a new world coming
and it asks only for
eyes that can see
where love is being
born in the lives of
persons newly freed.
There's a new world coming
and it asks only for
ears to hear the
beat of the music
now played to a
new harmony born
of all who are living in peace.
There's a new world coming
so don't stand in the way.
Come and join the flow
of people who can
live a new style
and learn to sing
songs just written
and dance to tunes
yet to come."

Dear Brethren, "Yesterday is
already a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision;
But today, well-lived (with Christ),
Makes every yesterday a dream
of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope."
(from the Sanskrit)

Yes, in God's new world I want to be
with God's vision.
I am going to venture where
God ventures.
In God's new world there'll be
victory . . .
So don't stand in the way,
Brethren,
Come and join the flow of
God's colony
Of people who can live a new
style in Christ
And learn to sing songs just
off the press . . .
And dance to tunes yet to
come in glory.
This is the living body of the
loving Lord!
To God Be The Glory As—
"ONE BODY IN CHRIST!"
Paul D. Steiner, Moderator

MISSIONARY NEWS

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



ONE DOWN — SIX TO GO

Written on July 27, 1974 (Saturday evening):

The first of our 7 Learning Center Workshops in Indiana and Ohio ended just a few hours ago here in Goshen. The materials, that took all Friday afternoon to "set up" for the two sessions, are all back in their boxes and packed solid in the station wagon once again . . . ready for the trip to Peru tomorrow afternoon in time to "set up" for the first workshop session there tomorrow night.

The numerical response for this first Workshop was encouraging: 43 on Friday night; 30 on Saturday morning. Each 2½ hours long. Eight churches represented: New Paris, Nappanee, Teegarden, County Line, Goshen, Jefferson; Cerro Gordo, Illinois; First Methodist in Goshen.

But even more significant was the cordiality and interest in becoming involved by the attenders. Little hesitancy in trying out the headsets at the Listening Centers, looking through the resource books, working through the exercises to improve teaching skills, making sample teaching aids, etc. There was a genuine concern for improving teaching abilities and developing effective materials. And it was a two-way street. Those of us from Brethren House received ideas and caught enthusiasm, as well as sharing with others what we experience.

The Evaluation Sheets brought several helpful suggestions for us as we go on to Peru, Bryan, Winding Waters, Louisville, Canton, and Smithville. These will be analyzed carefully as we drive to the next place.

In addition, here are a few scattered comments from the Evaluation Sheets indicating the value of the Workshop to those involved:

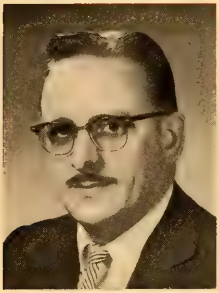
—I find the new ideas very helpful.
—We are taking home many new ideas. Hopefully these will help get the message of Jesus Christ across to the children in a new, interesting way. You have done a great job. God bless you!
—Many valuable insights and ideas. Thank you for caring and sharing in God's way.
—I learned how crafts can make classes more interesting to children.
—I learned the value of creative expression in Christian Education and how to interest children in these areas.
—Praise the Lord for openness in His work.
—I didn't realize there were so many uses of magnets and puppets.
—The film strips to be made by individuals can be very helpful in reaching "unreachable" kids.
—I am not a creative person which has been a real problem with some of the literature I have used. I think your ideas are fantastic and will be helpful as I plan my lessons. This is a different concept of Learning Centers than I have been familiar with and I like it.
—I benefitted from the variety of ideas and the examples shown.
—So many games to be used.
—I am glad to see this program circulating throughout the country. I would recommend it to all the teachers I know.
—Well-planned, unique ideas, broad scope.
—Didn't know there were so many ways to teach and learn. Praise God for your ministry.
—I was a bit overwhelmed. There were so many real great ideas and activities you have put into effect.

Naturally, these positive comments were a real boost to us as we just begin this series of Workshops. And we're taking to heart the suggestions made for improvements.

As I said to the group the first night, we are on this tour because of their support—and the support of you readers. Brethren House in St. Petersburg is in existence because of God's leading and the financial support and prayers of you Brethren. Our brief "tour" is one attempt to say "Thank You" by sharing the results of what you have made possible. Let's continue working together for the glory of God—and the training of His children.

—Phil

SOLOMON DIARY OF HAMEL VISIT



Missionary Kenneth Solomon shares with us a day by day report of the activities during the visit of Dr. J. D. Hamel and his daughter Janet to our Colombian mission field. Evangelist Hamel reports on the trip elsewhere in this same issue of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST. Ken says, "We really enjoyed having Bud and Janet in our home and would sincerely desire a repeat performance by them or anyone else that would prove to be as enjoyable and helpful. As far as I can tell at this writing Bud's ministry (to say nothing of Janet's) in our midst was positive all the way. As only he can do, he brought smiles to the faces of all with whom we came in contact, either smiles of friendship, humor, or entertainment. He certainly has a 'don de gente' or as you would say 'charisma' and would no doubt have been a great success as a politician.

June 8
Around 6:30 PM. (later than planned) they arrived at the Medellin airport.

June 9
Morning church service as a listener at the large Presbyterian church in the center of town and then a welcome dinner at a restaurant. An evening meeting in our home and a 5:30 PM service in a Fundamental Baptist Church.

June 10-12
Meetings each evening in the Episcopal Church for English-speaking people of Medellin, of which I am told there are over 1,000. The two hour services were attended mainly by missionaries and families and consisted of special music, preaching and fellowship with light refreshments. During the daytime we did much personal evangelism in many parts of town and distributed many tracts.

June 13-15
Evening meetings in our home with a very good attendance and many new faces. They lasted from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM almost every night since the people just didn't want to go home (Many—especially youth— stayed on to talk extensively about spiritual matters and to ask questions.) I believe the largest number attending was around 65 or 70. On the 12th and 14th Bud preached to the seminary student body and I interpreted. On the 14th in the afternoon we attended a round-table discussion with all of the Colombian ministers of the city and all of the missionaries at the Seminary. We continued personal evangelism whenever we had time.

June 16
We attended Sunday School and Church services at the Wesleyan church. Bud preached and I interpreted. In the afternoon, visiting and in the evening a home meeting. It was during this afternoon that we visited a new family and both adults accepted Christ. They live just a half block from our home.

June 17-22
Youth camp in the mountains of Rio Negro. Bud had chapel service, taught a youth class on Angelology and held a rap session each morning and each evening had another chapel service. He added to his load by helping out in the kitchen. We had around 55 campers in all and it was one of the best camps I have ever attended with a fine group of English-speaking youth and children ages 8 to 20.

June 23
We attended Sunday School and Church at the Fundamental Baptist church where Bud preached the morning message with my interpretation. There were several conversions and re-dedications. In the evening we had services in our home.

June 24
Personal evangelism

June 25
Personal evangelism and open-air meeting in the village of Copacabana some 40 kilometers from here but practically a suburb of Medellin on the northern tip of the valley. We had a fine attendance—possibly 150 to 200. Two seminary students helped with special music on the accordion and electric guitar and Bud on his trumpet.

June 26
More personal evangelism

June 27
More personal evangelism and an evening open-air meeting in the central plaza of Copacabana to which there was a larger crowd gathered than on Tuesday evening.

June 28
Personal evangelism, a visit to a bullring, and an evening meeting.

June 29
9:30 AM The Hamel's plane left for the United States—two hours late. We had a home meeting that evening and Bud's call of safe arrival in the United States came during the meeting.

You can see by this very brief resume of our activities during the month that we didn't let our visitor's loaf. Most of this schedule was made up after the Hamels arrival and upon Bud's insistance that he had not come down for a vacation. So . . . we used him and I sincerely believe he made a great contribution to our work here in this barrio as well as to the other denominations served.

OPERACION ZAVALLA

by Juan Carlos Miranda



Some of the students in front of the tent at Zavalla—at the left is seen the Evangelistic Mobile Equipment, trailer which was a project of the Signal Lights some years ago.

As a part of the Eden Bible Institute Church Growth program, and the practical work in evangelism for the students, four nights of special meetings with the new Brethren Church tent were planned for Zavalla, a small town twelve miles from the Institute. The campaign was short because classes had already started and most of the students have outside work to support themselves. Also the campaign was to be followed by another week-end of meetings at Soldini.

But what happened? The meetings with the tent lasted for twelve days. There were forty-eight seekers who received Christ as their personal Savior and many children with similar experience through the "children's hours" in the afternoons. The girls from the Eden Bible Institute and a young lady from Child Evangelism Fellowship worked with the children. Pastors Ortiz, Aspinall and myself with the male students from the Institute worked on the other aspects of the meetings.

Was that all? No, each evening, after the service, we had a training class for the new converts with new decisions adding new people to this class every night. Then we moved the tent to Soldini but we had to divide our forces for the people at Zavalla wanted more meetings. An "extavern" room was loaned to us and we continued there for another week of meetings with more people coming. We also continued with the "children's hours" first on the one side of the town and then on the other side as the town is divided by rail-road tracks.

Did it end there? No, right now we have regular meetings on Wednesday evenings, on Saturdays for the children and on Sundays an evening service for the adults. Soon we may have a rented place in the main part of town and we will continue to hold Bible Studies next to the place we have now on the opposite side of the town as well



Students, Pastors Ortiz, Aspinall, and Miranda assembling the tent at Zavalla

as the regular time for children in both halves of the town.

Zavalla is a town of about two thousand people and about four hundred homes. They are open for the Gospel and we intend with God's help to stay there and establish an organized church in that town. By the way, they already have made faith promises to pay for the rent of the room and this week we start studies on baptism. Yes, it has been different than what has been done in other places but it seems to work . . . could it be because it is more like the primitive church style?

Pray for Zavalla, there are many more to reach yet and we pray that when spring gets here (in September for us) this town will have received sufficient so that we may go on to another before the students leave for the summer . . . so that the Brethren Church in Argentina may grow and fulfill the Great Commission.



One of the Children's hours in the tent at Zavalla.

HAMEL PREACHES IN MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA



Fifteen years ago in Colombia, churches were burned and Christians were killed and forced to meet in secret. No mass evangelistic campaigns were permitted; no Christian films shown; no Gospel proclaimed by radio; and no tracts were permitted circulation. Today the country is wide open for the Gospel.

On Saturday, June 8th, my daughter Janet and I left Miami for Medellin to be with the Solomon family and preach the Gospel of Christ in a new Brethren mission field. The first service was held that evening in the Solomon home with sixteen in attendance. The service began at 8 p.m. and closed at 10:30 p.m. We were impressed with the people wanting to stay beyond the usual one hour service. It was my personal privilege while in Colombia to have six first time converts, two rededications, and to share the gospel by teaching, holding rap sessions, giving magic object lessons, and preaching—a total of 47 times; plus person to person street witnessing with Missionary Kenneth Solomon to hundreds. Janet and I also provided special instrumental music during these weeks with the trumpet and flute.

During the three weeks we were there we held nine services and one Communion service in the Solomon home and outdoor patio. Each one of these nine services averaged over two hours; and with Rev. Solomon, interpreter, I preached two messages at each service. Our services began in the Solomons living room with sixteen in attendance and grew to over 65 as we moved to larger quarters in the patio.

During the first week I was the guest speaker for three nights at the downtown Episcopal church to the English speaking people of Medellin which included the English speaking pastors and missionary families. During my stay I also had the distinct pleasure of preaching in a fundamental Baptist church, Wesleyan Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church, Oriental Missionary Society Church, and at the Inter-American United Biblical Seminary Chapel. This is the seminary which the book, "My God Just Went By" by B. H. Pearson talks about. What an exciting history! Rev. Solomon is also a part-time professor at this seminary.

In the entire two million population area of Medellin there are only about fifty evangelical churches! In Sarasota, with only about 1/50th of that population we have twice as many churches! The people are **so** eager to hear the Gospel! We took $50 worth of Spanish tracts down with us—as many as we could jam into our suitcases, and they went like "hot cakes!" Ken and I and the Solomon children distributed them at all hours of the day, from early morning to late

at night. Joel gave one to a cleaning truck man early one morning. The truck came back, clear around the block, and the man asked for another tract to give to a friend. One night Ken and I were surrounded by so many teenagers reaching for a tract that a policeman nearby came over to see if we needed help!

The second week we were at Finca Cannaan, Rionegro, Antioquia, a camp sponsored by the George Washington School—8,000 ft. in the Andes Mountains—an English Bible Camp for the missionaries and pastors children. I was camp evangelist giving messages at chapel each morning and vespers each evening as well as teaching a class each day and in charge of a "Rap" session with the older pupils at 11:15 p.m. each evening. It was quite an experience!

Tuesday of the third week we took a 60 mile round trip and preached in a street meeting in a poverty area. We had to take a taxi as the Solomons do not have a car. Prices of automobiles in Colombia are unbelievably high, but taxis and buses are reasonable. The people heard us for 2½ hours, standing all the time, and when we were ready to leave, they wanted more! There were hundreds of people in the street and even on the roof tops. One of the pastors said they had never had a meeting like that in their area. I was also the guest speaker earlier in the day for a ladies meeting—like a W.M.S. I brought greetings to them from our W.M.S. ladies in America. This was held in Pastor Jesus Antonio Zorrilla's church. He is a seminary student and a National.

Thursday night I spoke at an outdoor meeting in Copacabana, Antioquia in the city square across from the Catholic Church. It was the largest meeting of the entire three weeks with hundreds of people listening, eager to hear the Gospel! Someone threw a rock through the crowd. We aren't sure if it was an accident or if they didn't want the preaching to continue, but the people did not leave. In fact, after more than two hours, they still wanted us to continue. What a mission field! Rev. Solomon and I were also accompanied by Mrs. Eugene Beekley and two national pastors for this meeting. Mrs. Beekley, the wife of our Ashland Park Street pastor, and professor for Ohio State University Branch, is in Medellin for a five week teaching mission in remedial reading.

Friday evening, our final night in Medellin, we had the privilege of sharing with the Solomons; Mrs. Eugene Beekley; a Baptist pastor and his family, Felipe-Cobenera; and Rev. Solomon's first convert of Medellin; our first Holy Communion in Spanish. There were 12 participating. It was a glorious experience which I am sure we will remember for the rest of our lives. Later that evening we had another service in the patio of the Solomon home with a record number in attendance.

My daughter Janet and I will never forget Medellin, Colombia. Jesus said, "The Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, **as a witness,** then shall the end come." Why, indeed, should some have the opportunity of hearing the gospel not just twice, but many, many times—when others have not heard even once. We passed through one area of 150,000 people with absolutely no church—not even a Catholic one!

As a member of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church I was challenged and inspired by the Solomons and the Gospel inroads that they have already made in such a short time. Rev. Kenneth Solomon's ability to communicate in personal evangelism is to be admired and desired of all men of God. I had been in their home only a short time and had already witnessed not only his ability, but that of each member of the family—daughters Margi and Becky, sons Joel and Tim, as well as his wife Jeannette—in sharing Christ with others.

Words will never express adequately my appreciation to the Sarasota First Brethren Church for allowing me to go, to its members who helped finance the trip, and to Mr. Herb Hofer for his ham radio direct contact to the mission field from the United States.

None of this could have happened without the miraculous touch of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. I believe we are in World Mission's finest hour. The Bible says in Genesis 8:22, "While the Earth remaineth, seed time and harvest . . . shall not cease." These are tremendous days for revival!

—Dr. J. D. Hamel, Sarasota, Florida

Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem on it, and make it worth $6,000. . . . That is genius.

Rockefeller can sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth millions. . . . That is capital.

Uncle Sam can take gold, stamp an eagle on it and make it worth $20. . . . That is money.

A mechanic can take material worth $5.00 and make an article worth $50.00. . . . That is skill.

An artist can take a fifty cent piece of canvas, paint it, and make it worth $1,000,000. . . . That is art.

God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put His Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to humanity. . . . That is Salvation.

from the Evangel

NEWS FROM

A T S



Rev. Richard E. Allison has been appointed Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Ashland Theological Seminary. Rev. Allison will begin his duties in the fall term 1974-1975. This is in cooperation with the Jefferson Brethren Church where he will continue to be senior pastor for a period of two years. Richard comes highly qualified to fill this position, both academically and professionally. Richard has completed his B.A. from Ashland College, B.D. from Ashland Theological Seminary, M.R.E. from Goshen College, and D.M. (pending) from CONRAD, Inc., Consortium of Theological Schools in Ohio. The American Association of Theological Schools requested that our additional faculty be in the Practical Theology division by a person who has had a successful practical ministry.

Ashland faculty and students are looking forward to the coming of the Allison family and sharing in witness and professional training for the Gospel ministry.

"Workers Together with God"

NAE Sunday, October 27, 1974

A voluntary fellowship for united action, the **National Association of Evangelicals** provides identification for 30,000 local churches from 60 affiliations.

Through this cooperative witness, 3.5 million evangelicals share in a wide range of ministries proclaiming Christ as Lord in such areas as missions, broadcasting, government relations and world relief.

NAE Sunday is designed as a reminder of the part individuals and churches can play as "workers together with God."

Observe NAE Sunday in your church and receive a free cassette

Participating churches will receive a cassette message "Remembering -We Press Forward" by Dr. Clyde W. Taylor at the 1974 NAE Convention

NAE

MAIL TO:
National Association of Evangelicals
Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

YES, we will emphasize the ministry of NAE on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27.
Please send us these free NAE Sunday materials:

_____ copies, *BULLETIN INSERTS*
_____ copies of NAE Sunday *POSTERS*
_____ copies of *PROFILE (NAE newsletter for churches not now receiving)*

PASTOR _____
CHURCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

GAF

by Beverly Summy
Benevolent Board

GAF is not that Japanese film. It is also not a hook—G-A-F-F. GAF is Golden Agers Fellowship.

Think over your church program—what has your congregation done lately for its senior citizens? Has it done the usual, like regular services including Prayer Meeting (which is mainly supported by older members) and an occasional class party with a little Laymen or WMS thrown in? But what has it done specifically and exclusively for the Golden Age set?

GAF could be the answer for your church. Some churches lack youth, some lack young married couples but hardly a congregation lacks for senior citizens.

What Can The Church Do For GAF?

If you want action in your church program for an often neglected segment of the membership, get involved in the Golden Agers Fellowship. The church can help by:

1. Showing concern—let your elderly know you care about them and their current problems. They should not feel they have been "put out to pasture" in the church program . . . a lot of knowledge and know-how are accumulated in them and they should have avenues for sharing it.
2. Providing fellowship—retirement days can but should not stretch out in monotony and uselessness. Church programs with all ages participating are good but a fellowship for the Golden Agers exclusively is better to meet many of their changing needs.
3. Supplying facilities—meeting rooms, dining equipment, fellowship rooms, work areas, buses, equipment including public address systems, etc. can be put at the disposal of the senior citizens in their program.
4. Allocating funds—church budgets are set up to provide money for all kinds of expenses—salaries, equipment, denominational programs, insurance, missions, supplies, building, youth activities, scholarships, contingencies, maintenance and repair, music and on and on—BUT how often is anything included for a program designed for the elderly? These members have the lowest percent of income in the congregation and therefore have the greatest financial need—bar none—among the age groups. Most of them live on fixed incomes which in most cases is barely adequate with today's inflation. Budgeted funds would be a great asset to the GAF.
5. Furnishing leadership—a middle-aged or mature younger adult or couple would be best to serve in a leadership position. These people should care for and be concerned about the elderly with a great capacity for love, understanding and cooperativeness. The leader/s should work closely with the senior citizens and not impose a "canned" program on the GAF. Know what the Golden Agers want and need! Leadership might come from an active, younger retiree but in most cases they may need someone in another age group to supply the organization and energy needed for various aspects of the program.

What Can GAF Do For The Church's Senior Citizens?

The Golden Agers Fellowship (or another name the group might choose) should be designed for fellowship, activity, spiritual enrichment and practical help in a flexible structure. Too much rigid or imposed programming will kill the spirit of the group. However, when an activity is decided upon, there needs to be careful planning to make it successful. Leaders should work with a committee from the group to determine what programs, activities and efforts are needed and should always be alert to individual ideas and suggestions.

GAF can provide:

1. Fellowship—group meals for those who often eat alone and do not fix themselves well-balanced meals; times for chatting with others who also live alone and enjoy such companionship.
2. Activity—through programs of entertainment and information; table games; sightseeing excursions by church bus or car pool; crafts such as quilting, weaving, noodle making, beadwork and rug making for the women and carving, chair caning, leather work and toy making for the men; bazaars; classes to teach others crafts; birthday parties; Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners; hymn and old-time popular sings; fix-it shop by the men for small appliances and repairs; and other activities the group may find interesting.
3. Spiritual enrichment—this is a vital and important aspect of life that becomes more important for people as they reach retirement years. Often those who "haven't had time" for spiritual exercise in the rush of working years are open to such activity in later years and for others it becomes a time of further deepening of faith. All aspects of GAF should be permeated with spiritual enrichment through special religious programs, Bible studies, having scriptures read for those who find it difficult to see, playing records or tapes of sermons and scripture reading for those who cannot hear or see well. Ear plugs could be provided for individuals with hearing difficulties.
4. Practical help—the Golden Agers are in need of all sorts of practical help that could be provided by or initiated by GAF. Possibilities for help in this area are almost limitless but here are some suggestions:
 a. Car pools for shopping or medical appointments.
 b. Group buying of items, especially groceries, to provide more economy through quantity buying.
 c. Conduct sessions led by professional people on such subjects as obtaining legal counsel; Social Security and Medicare procedures and benefits; community services that are available such as Meals-on-Wheels, health nurse and her work, clubs for retired citizens; budgeting on a fixed income; utility homestead, drug and other discounts available for senior citizens and how to obtain them; voting, political and community issues.
 d. Initiate community action to obtain needed services for the elderly that may not be in operation such as Meals-on-Wheels; day care centers for the elderly; FISH which is a group of citizens who are willing to provide transportation for those who have none; institute discounts on certain utilities, services, and products if there are none in the community; and other needed programs.
 e. Encourage younger groups in the church to participate in service projects for the elderly such as spring or fall house cleaning, window washing, storm and screen changes, yard work and snow removal.
 f. Obtain large print hymnals and reading materials. Such magazines as **Guideposts** and **Readers' Digest** are available in large print. These and other reading books could be placed in the church library or circulated among GAF members if your church has no library.
 g. Obtain a good portable public address system if the church has none so speakers and programs can be enjoyed by those with hearing difficulties.

What Can GAF Do For The Church?

Golden Agers should not be "out of sight, out of mind." They may not perform the same church functions as in previous years but they have much to offer the congregation. They should be prayer warriors, spiritual counsellors, based on lots of living and experience, examples to younger people on how the grow old graciously (there's nothing greater than a smiling, happy, loving senior citizen), volunteers for jobs that are time consuming and often neglected because others do not have time. Examples of the latter might be: folding bulletins and special programs; assisting in assembling the church newspaper and preparing it for mailing; repairing hymn books; repairing and painting tables and chairs for the children's departments; making pull toys, blocks and vinyl covered picture books for the nursery; assisting in preparing books for the church library and opening the library for certain hours so people can check out books; you will find many more opportunities to serve if you look around your church.

Retirement years should be joyous, beautiful and good. GAF can help make that possible!

They call me old—they see my whitened hair,
My wrinkled face; my toiling up the stair
With painful pace; my deeply furrowed brow,
My shoulders stooped; my thin hands,
withered now,
But could they see my heart and peer within,
They'd find a youthful part, for nothing thin
And wrinkled, earthly born,
Would they see there, but one as young as morn
And far more fair.
What does it matter, then, that I am gray;
That this frail frame has been seized by decay?
Through silver is my hair, sweet flowers of gold
Are blooming everywhere: my heart's not old!
And so this tenement of crumbling clay
Is but a hut I rent for one short day.
Love's wondrous house in peace awaits
now for me,
With joys that shall increase eternally!

—Gordon Hurlbutt

SIGNAL LIGHTS PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

BIBLE THEME:

Friends

MISSION PROJECT:

Radio Programs and Literature for Spanish Speaking Americans

Bible Story: A Friend to Travelers

(Display pictures of tents similar to the ones Abraham lived in. Otherwise the children will visualize tents such as are used today for camping.)

Abraham lived in a large beautiful tent. All the members of his family and his servants lived in tents. You see, Abraham raised cattle, sheep, and goats. When the grass had been all eaten in one area Abraham moved to another place. A tent was the best home for him. When it was time to move, the tents could be taken down and then set up again at the new location.

One very hot day as Abraham sat in the doorway of his tent he saw three men coming toward him. Quickly he went to meet them.

"Hello," he greeted them. "It's a hot day to be traveling. Do stop at my tent to rest."

"Thank you, replied one of the men. "We will be glad to stop. Our feet are hot and tired."

Abraham clapped his hands. A servant came.

"Bring a basin of water for these men to wash their feet." Abraham told the servant.

"Yes, sir," answered the servant and he went to bring the water.

Abraham went to Sarah his wife who was resting in her tent.

"Sarah," he told her, "we have guests—three men who were traveling by. I have asked them to stop and rest. Please fix some food for them."

"I'll fix some barley cakes," said Sarah. "Send a servant to bring fresh meat."

While Sarah and the servant were fixing dinner Abraham took cups of cool sweet milk to the men. Soon the food was ready, too, and Abraham served it to his guests. He stood nearby and visted with them as they ate.

Abraham was thankful for the many good things he had. He was glad he could help these strangers by sharing his food and his home with them.

—Based on Genesis 18:1-16

Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:2

God wants us to be kind to others as Abraham was. Our memory verse is Hebrews 13:2. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."

"Strangers" means people who are not part of our family. To "entertain" them means to help them.

Let's think of ways we can show our love for God by helping others.

Mission Time: Our New Project

Rev. and Mrs. Bill Curtis and their daughter Debbie were our missionaries to Argentina.

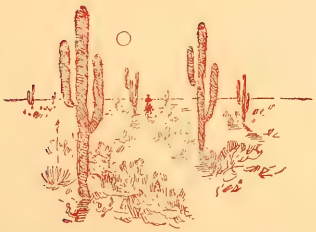
The people of Argentina speak Spanish. The Curtis' learned Spanish so they could tell the Argentines of God's love. They were our missionaries in Argentina for eight years.

Then they knew God wanted them to start a new work for Him. Just one year ago they moved to Tucson, Arizona. Many Mexican-Americans live in Tucson. Some of them have learned English. Most of them speak Spanish. Many of these people do not know Jesus. The Curtis' are our missionaries to them.

There is a Spanish radio station in Tucson. Twice a week our missionaries have a program broadcast over it. This program tells the people in Spanish of God's love and how He wants to help. There is also music on the broadcast.

At the end of the program the people are invited to write for free Bible courses which are printed in Spanish. The Curtis' also give tracts and booklets to the people they talk with each day.





Radio programs and literature cost money. It costs four dollars each day for the radio broadcast. It costs about seventy cents a day for the literature the Curtis' give away.

Would you like to help our Spanish speaking friends in Tucson hear about Jesus on the radio and have tracts to read about Him? Then save your money for our Signal Lights offering each month. This year our money will buy radio time and literature to help Mexican-Americans learn of Jesus.

Next month we'll have a story about a boy who heard our Spanish radio program in Tucson.

THE WONDERS



This afternoon
I watched
As a long gray bird
Circled the clouds
Of a powder blue sky.
I circled the horizons
Of my thoughts
Hoping to find
A memory
When I didn't
Know you God.
I now see little things
That I never took time
To notice before.
I spend hours
Looking at trees
Blowing bent,
And watching birds
Defy the currents of wind.
I once took these wonders
For granted.
But now I
Know only you
Could have made
It all possible.
I thank you God
For the wonders of
This world.

Deborah Wadding

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



MERLE - HOLSINGER

Jim Holsinger and Ester Merle were united in an informal ceremony at the First Brethren Church, Tucson, Arizona, Friday, July 26th. The wedding took place on the groom's mother's 88th birthday.

* * *

GILBERT - WHITTINGTON

Saturday, August 10, Beth Gilbert and Matthew Whittington were united in Holy Marriage in the First Brethren sanctuary at Bryan, Ohio, conducted by Rev. M. W. Dodds and Dan Gray.

Parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gilbert, Bryan, Ohio and parents of groom are Col. and Mrs. Richard Whittington, Stuttgart, Germany.

The couple will reside at Mt. Pleasant and each will complete their senior year at Central Michigan University.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Mexico, Indiana — 5 by baptism
Tucson, Arizona — 14 by baptism
Sarasota, Florida — 9 by baptism

Memorials

WELTY

Mrs. Elizabeth Welty passed away on May 6, 1974. She was a member of the Fairless Hills - Levittown Brethren Church where she served the Lord in many ways, one of which was President of the W.M.S. Mrs. Welty with her husband would have celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, May 28.

Memorial services were conducted May 8 at the Dunn Funeral Home with Rev. James Donahoo officiating. Interment was at the Rosedale Memorial Park, Oakford, Pennsylvania.

* * *

SANOR

Elgie Sanor, 81, went to be with his Lord Thursday, July 18, 1974 at the Northside Hospital in Youngstown. He was a member of the North Georgetown Brethren Church since his baptism by Rev. A. B. Cover in 1913.

He is survived by his wife, Myrtle; two daughters, Mrs. Velma Blackburn, and Mrs. Leona Reichenbach; three sons, Lester, Virgil, and Harold Sanor; a sister, Pearl, twenty-one grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by Rev. Larry Baker and Rev. Thomas Shannon, and burial was at Highland Memorial Park.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Berkshire celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on June 26, 1974. They are members of the Masontown Brethren Church.

Their sons are: Elders W. Clayton pastor at Papago Park, Tempe, Arizona; Charles pastor at Masontown, Pennsylvania; H. Francis, Scottsdale, Arizona; J. Edgar, Tyner, Indiana.

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR SEPTEMBER

THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE



Much concern was expressed about the recently defeated constitution amendment relating to prayers in public schools. It is proper that serious attention should be given to such an issue. This has been done in multiplied inches of news print in newspapers and magazines and by thousands of words on radio and television.

In the midst of all of this it is well that we consider a fact that may not be adequately appreciated or emphasized. That is, that no law or regulation by any governing body can prevent the person who recognizes the value of prayer from engaging in communion with God in any place or at any time. One song expresses this fact with these words:

"I need not leave the throng,
Nor wait till work is o'er
To lift my heart in prayer
Behind a tight shut door.
There is a secret place
Where I may go today
And though I'm pressed
Amid the throng
I enter softly and pray."

The controversy, which has had so much attention, should emphasize the importance of leading children, in their early years, before they even begin school, to understand, appreciate, and engage in meaningful prayer.

Oh, that prayer together might be so central to the life of each family that talking to God would become as natural as breathing to every child from earliest years. Think of the power for God and for good if father and mother and all the children lived in constant communion with God.

From such a beginning we can expect reality in prayer that can neither be stopped nor thwarted by any government regulation. Oh yes, we should be alert to guard the freedoms of this our land, but we have a greater responsibility to so "train up" our children in the way which they should go that neither government regulations, decaying morals, indifference to the things of the Lord which they meet in life shall shake their personal faith and commitment to God.



FOUNDATIONAL HYMN TALKS



By Peter E. Roussaki
Minister of Music and Education
The Brethren Church
New Lebanon, Ohio

FOR MORNING WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways in which congregational singing in worship services may be enriched. I find the short devotional or informative HYMN TALK one of the most practical means. Hymn talks may be inserted quite naturally into the order of service. Immediately preceeding the singing of a hymn the pastor, choir director, or song leader may provide a few minutes of hymn interpretation. He may also choose to interpret between stanzas. This technique seems to work better because the congregation is less likely to loose interest. A few methods of hymn interpretation include:

1. *Focusing on the scriptural allusions found in the stanzas.*
2. *Using diagrams or drawings to illustrate ideas or truths.*
3. *Paraphrasing the text.*
4. *Exegeting the stanzas. (That's one for you, Pastors!)*
5. *Dramatizing or having interpretive movement.*
6. *Bringing out interesting facts about the author or composer.*
7. *Shedding light on unusual circumstances in which the hymn was conceived.*
8. *Showing slides of contemporary scenes or events to relate the hymn to real situations today.*

In addition to interpreting hymns, the worship leader may desire to use a variety of performance techniques. Some of these include:

1. *Choir only on a stanza.*
2. *Free organ accompaniment on the final stanza. (In this case choir and congregation must sing in unison.)*
3. *Ladies sing (or Men sing) alone.*
4. *Sing a cappella.*
5. *Speak a stanza in unison.*
6. *Choral descant on the final stanza.*
7. *Soloist for one stanza.*
8. *Raise pitch on final stanza.*
9. *Congregational Movement.*
10. *Use other instrumental accompaniment.*

It should be definitely pointed out here, however, that only two (or at the most three) of these techniques be used at one time. Too much variety may defeat the purpose of enrichment.

The four hymn talks in this series are called FOUNDATIONAL because they describe what this writer feels are the very basics of congregational or hymn singing. Clergy and laity alike can profit from a simple, yet clear understanding of the place of song in worship and other Christian settings. The talks may best be used at the beginning of a hymnic enrichment program. They are presented here basically as they were this spring in New Lebanon, each taking approximately six minutes, including singing.

PART I

PART I. **Scriptural Basis for Congregational Song**

This morning I am beginning a series of four short hymn talks to give us a greater understanding and appreciation for the congregational song we use to worship God.

Simply from the fact that there are over 700 specific references to vocal and instrumental music in Scripture I find this study worthy of our consideration. Many entire passages in the Bible were sections of worship material used by the Israelites and later by Christians. Certainly the Psalms has formed the greatest single body of material used in worship and private devotions through the centuries.

More specifically we are encouraged in the Scripture not only to worship God by singing praises to Him, but also to sing praises for the enrichment and edification of one another in the faith. In this way we are reminded of God's teachings and promises. Colossians 3:16 makes it very clear: "Remember what Christ taught and let his words enrich your lives and make you wise; teach them to each other and sing them out in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to the Lord with thankful hearts."

Again in Ephesians 5:19 Paul instructs the Christians at Ephesus to keep being filled with the Holy Spirit and thus controlled by Him. How? "Talk with each other much about the Lord, quoting psalms and hymns and singing spiritual songs. . . ."

And so it is through our worship, with its heritage of songs, we can allow the Word of God to become more a part of us; we can allow His words to enrich us and teach us. The singing, furthermore, is to be directed 'to the Lord' and not to ourselves. We are to glorify Him, and Him alone!

Now that we have a biblical basis for the values of our worship in song, we shall examine more closely the unique characteristics of the basic forms our congregational songs take. Todays hymn of prayer is a rhymned version of Psalm 90. When you have time read this Psalm and compare the hymn to it. I'm sure it will be an enriching and devotional experience. (Sing: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past")

1975 CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE 1975

Theme: "Church Growth"

Study book: The Master Plan Of Evangelism
by Robert E. Coleman

This is a study of the Master's work with His disciples from the four gospels.

This book is on the bibliography of Arden Gilmer's Laymen Alive training program.

Cost: textbook—$1.50 study guide—$1.00 available from the Brethren Publishing Co.

Time: Each local church study this book between January 12 and March 16. These early dates are suggested because Easter falls on March 30, 1975.

Other books for reference:

How To Grow A Church—
Donald McGavran & Win Arn

Hope For Your Church—Harold L. Fickett Jr.

Watch the Brethren Evangelist for more information and guidelines for local study.

Eugene Beekley
Ralph Gibson
William Brady
Alvin Grumbling, ch.

THE GREAT DELUSION

By Abe Thiessen

John grew up in a typical Christian home. From his earliest childhood he was taught Bible stories. He was taken to Sunday School and to church regularly. When he was nine the lovely lady at Daily Vacation Bible School asked him if he didn't want to let Jesus into his heart, and he said yes. A few years later he took the church membership classes, was baptized and joined the church.

During his high school and college years he ventured into "the world." His parents and the church people worried about him. John had some serious questions, but he didn't actually doubt the historic truths of the Bible that had been poured into him during his earlier years. After he married Mary, they "settled down" and readily conformed to the accepted pattern of the evangelical community. Before long they were both active in teaching and leadership positions.

John and Mary do all the right things. They belong to the right church. They have all the right credentials. But I fear that they are nothing more than a product of the evangelical mold. They sincerely think that they are Christians, but theirs is really behaviorism. It is conformity to the social pattern of their evangelical community.

This young family, typical of millions, lives a life centered around themselves, their friends, their interests, their future, their security. They make all the plans and all the decisions according to their wishes. They are good people. They give to the church, and to missions—in a limited sort of way. They wouldn't harm anyone for the world. But none of these things meet the New Testament standards of Christianity.

New Testament Christianity begins with acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Nowhere in the New Testament are these two names separated. The New Testament does not teach Christ's Saviourhood apart from His Lordship. A new life results. A life that is Christ centered and Christ controlled. According to II Cor. 5:17 ". . . old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." This new life is not lived for self, but for Christ. II Cor. 5:15 ". . . that they should not henceforth live unto themselves, but for Him who died for them, and rose again."

Jesus clearly taught that "if any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your own pleasures and shoulder your Cross, and follow me closely," Mark 8:34 (Living Bible). He requires a commitment to Himself which means that we no longer go our own way, but His way.

Jesus also told us how to know whether or not we are Christians. Matt. 7:20-23. "The way to identify a person or a tree, is by the kind of fruit produced. Not all who sound religious are really godly people. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but still won't get to heaven. For the decisive question is whether they obey my Father in heaven. At the judgment many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we told others about you and used your name to cast out demons and to do many other great miracles.' But I will reply, 'You have never been mine. Go away, for your deeds are evil.' " (Living Bible). His emphasis is on obedience to the Father, and upon deeds.

The Apostle John, when he was an old man, answered the same question in the same way. I John 2:3-5 "And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By looking within ourselves; are we really trying to do what He wants us to? Someone may say, 'I am a Christian; I am on my way to heaven; I belong to Christ,' But if he doesn't do what Christ tells him to, he is a liar. But those who do what Christ tells them to will learn to love God more and more. That is the way to know whether or not you are a Christian." Our attitudes and our actions prove what we really are.

You may say that John and Mary are Christians, but that they are carnal. The New Testament teaches that the carnal state is a temporary one, as well as a dangerous one. Heb. 12:7-8 says ". . . Whoever heard of a son who was never corrected? If God doesn't punish you when you need it, as other fathers punish their sons, then it means that you aren't really God's sons at all—that you don't really belong in his family." (Living Bible). Clearly, the carnal Christian will be punished.

If John and Mary can go on year after year living for self, without being chastised, it is because they have only a church relationship, not a Christ relationsip. They are not really in God's family at all. Having a high percentage of our church membership in this category accounts for the impotence of the church, for the lack of funds for world evangelism, and for the keen interest in material things rather than the spiritual.

Our evangelical system has developed a standard and pattern of Churchianity that does not match the New Testament teachings. This has resulted in a great delusion for multitudes of fine people. They think they are Christians, but by Christ's words they are not. How terribly tragic.

Reprinted with permission from the 1st. Quarter issue of the INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS Bulletin by Abe G. Thiessen author of the article and Executive Director of the International Christian Broadcasters, Inc.

NCC REPORT: 62.4% OF AMERICANS HOLD A RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

NEW YORK (EP)—The number of Americans having some religious affiliation has leveled out at 62.4 per cent, according to the annual tabulation by the National Council of Churches.

A total of 131,424,564 members of churches and synagogues is reported in the 1974 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, up only 35,000 from the previous tally—but at the same per cent of population reported a year earlier.

If any trend is shown by the new figures, the National Council said, it is that the older, so-called "mainline Protestant" denominations, continue to lose members while theologically conservative or strongly evangelistic groups are generally gaining.

Statistics reflected in the 1974 Yearbook published May 13 by Abingdon Press, are largely from calendar 1972. They were supplied by 223 religious groups, the same number reporting for the 1973 Yearbook.

The report shows 71,648,521 Protestants; 48,640,427 Roman Catholics (a 1972 figure), 6,115,000 Jews and 3,739,620 members of Eastern Churches.

Included in the Protestant total are Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormon (Latter-day Saints) who are not, strictly speaking, Protestants.

Between 1971 and 1972, the Yearbook reports that Mormons registered the largest percentage membership gain (2.5 per cent) of the 17 largest Churches, reaching 2,133,072. The largest decrease was 5 per cent among congregations of the American Baptist Churches, which dropped to 1,484,393.

Jehovah's Witnesses membership increased by 3.5 per cent, to a new total of 416,789.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, had a 2 per cent increase, moving to slightly more than 12,000,000 in the period covered by the Yearbook. Roman Catholic increase was 69,437, or 0.1 per cent.

Losses in membership were reported in the American Lutheran Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern), the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the United Church of Christ, the United Presbyterian Church and the United Methodist Church.

("Mainline" declines generally continued in 1973, according to denominational reports more recent than the figures carried in the Yearbook. For example, the United Methodist Church, which lost 174,677 members in 1972, dropped an additional 142,256 in 1973, bringing it to a new total of 10,190,000 million compared to 10.3 million in the 1974 Yearbook.)

The Assemblies of God increased by 21,274, to a membership of 1,078,332, while the Church of the Nazarene rose to 394,197 by the addition of 10,535 persons.

The 1974 Yearbook reported 100,000 Buddhists; 912,551 Old Catholic, Polish National Catholic and Armenian Christians, and 448,445 persons in miscellaneous" groups (such as the Spiritualists, Unitarian Universalist Association and Ethical Culture Movement.)

There were no current statistics for several large black denominations. In both 1971 and 1972, two black Baptist groups showed the same totals: National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., 5.5 million and the National Baptist Convention of America, 2.6 million.

Sunday school figures, based on less comprehensive data than the membership totals, indicated a continued downward drift. The 1972 total was 36,697,785 pupils, compared to 38,487,453 a year earlier.

The Southern Baptist Convention showed a 36,445 rise in Sunday School enrollment, a reversal of a decrease the year before. About one-fifth, or 7,175,186, of all persons enrolled in Sunday schools are in Southern Baptist churches.

One notable jump in Sunday schools was in the Church of the Nazarene which added 123,757 students, reaching a total of 868,911. Following the general trend in membership, Sunday schools were off most in "mainline" denominations.

The Yearbook, citing surveys by the Gallup Poll, revealed that only 40 per cent of the American people attend Sunday worship in a typical week. Attendance was 49 per cent in 1955.

A jump of 67,383 in clergy ranks between 1971 and 1972 was attributed in large part to the inclusion for the first time of a Southern Baptist figure. The Convention reported 54,150 ministers The new clergy total is 463,987.

Citing figures earlier reported by other groups, the Yearbook counted 31,698 seminarians in 1972.

Data from 39 Protestant denominations indicated, as also earlier reported, an increase in cash contributions. The jump was $229 million or 5.2 per cent over the 1971 total. In 1972, members of the 39 Churches contributed $4,615,607,162 for all purposes.

The pace of construction of religious buildings continued to decline. While the 1972 dollar figure was $844 million, as compared to $813 million on 1971, the rate of inflation wiped out any apparent increase, the National Council said.

The annual Yearbook tabulation of statistics on American religion was directed by Constant Jacquet, editor of the publication. The volume is available at $9.95 per copy from bookstores or Abingdon Press, the United Methodist agency in Nashville.

The common idea that success spoils people by making them vain, egotistical, and self-complacent is erroneous; on the contrary, it makes them for the most part, humble, tolerant, and kind. Failure makes people bitter and cruel.

Somerset Maugham

GOOD NEWS IN THE U.S.A.

More than 35,000,000 Scriptures were distributed throughout the United States last year in connection with "Key 73," the year-long, continent-wide evangelistic campaign that set out to "call the continent to Christ." Thousands of volunteers from local churches witnessed to their faith as they shared Scriptures with people everywhere—in homes as they went from door to door, in churches, schools, hospitals, prisons, shopping centers, national parks, fairs, youth camps, conventions, legislatures, and on trains, buses, subways, and even a ferry boat!

Baptists in Georgia resolved to bring the Word of God to every home in the state. A million copies of "One Way," a special newspaper-format edition of the Gospel of John, were ordered from the American Bible Society. At year's end, more than half of these had been given out in every county of the state. A similar campaign was organized among the churches of Nebraska, resulting in a well-coordinated statewide effort reaching almost every community with the Scriptures.

Key 73 Scripture distribution in Santa Barbara, Calif., was typical of efforts in a great many communities throughout the country. Clergy and lay leaders from 40 churches, working with the guidance of ABS regional personnel, gathered 600 volunteers to visit every home in their community on a single Sunday afternoon. They passed out more than 30,000 copies of "Touched By The Fire," a special ABS Key 73 edition of Luke/Acts in Today's English Version. The Scriptures were so well received that additional copies were soon requested for similar campaigns in Goleta and other neighboring communities.

Key 73 was by no means the only effort of the year to put the Scriptures in the hands of the people. All the regular means of sharing Scriptures were used as well. At the rock music extravanganza held in July at Watkins Glen, N.Y., 600,000 young people turned the landscape into a sea of humanity. Seven young people set up four Scripture distribution points and within 20 minutes had enlisted other interested and curious passersby in giving out Scriptures. Within an hour a volunteer force of about 85 people were cheerfully involved. They were able to establish five stations and to keep a working team of at least 60 persons moving among the crowd throughout the weekend. The Scriptures, supplied by the ABS, were freely and warmly received. A total of about 80,000 Scriptures were passed out among the crowd.

Local churches are one of the main channels for the sharing of Scriptures. The Hopewell Presbyterian Church of Hopewell, N.J., sponsored a Scripture booth at the state fair and found recipients for 36,000 ABS Selections. Another New Jersey congregation bought a set of cassette tape recordings of the New Testament in Today's English Version for one of their members who is an invalid. Expressing her thanks, she wrote to the ABS: "It is like a little bit of heaven to be able just to sit and listen to the Bible, instead of having to wait until some friend comes by and reads it to me." Some congregations give Scriptures to each new member, to couples getting married, to church school pupils, as well as using them in counseling and with the sick and shut in. They work with ABS regional personnel in organizing large-scale distribution efforts at conventions, fairs, parades and other public events. Local churches are usually the channels through which ABS supplies Scriptures to victims of floods, fires, earthquakes, and other disasters.

ABS regional personnel frequently promote the sharing of Scriptures with merchant seamen when their ships are in port. This took place in Chicago, Corpus Christi, Fort Lauderdale, Galveston, Houston, Jacksonville, Mobile, New Orleans, Norfolk, Pensacola, Port Arthur and Seattle. More than 20,000 Scriptures of all kinds in 27 languages were shared with seamen in American ports in 1973.

Certain other organizations are channels through which the American Bible Society is able to bring the Word to those who need it. Through the Indiana Migrant Ministry and similar organizations, Scriptures are made available to seasonal workers who have no permanent church homes. The Catholic Chaplains' Association and administrators of Roman Catholic hospitals ordered over 1,300,000 ABS Scriptures in 1973 for their continuing ministry. Many other hospitals, nursing homes, educational and correctional institutions are using ABS Scriptures in their chaplaincy programs. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes uses ABS Scriptures for team devotions in dressing rooms, and used more than 300,000 of them in its ministry to athletes ranging in age from high school through the "pros." Other youth organizations circulate ABS Scriptures, among them Campus Crusade for Christ, the Free Bible Literature Society, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Jesus People International, Teen Challenge, Young Life, and Youth for Christ.

The number of individuals who have become ABS volunteers increased six-fold in 1973 in response to an intensive recruitment and training program. There are now more than 7,400 volunteers, men, women and children, in all 50 states. These dedicated persons give their time, energy and imagination to the distribution of Scriptures, tell the story of the Bible cause at various church and non-church meetings, on radio and television, and they endeavor to raise funds for the support of the American Bible Society. The volunteers are often responsible for getting Scripture distribution programs started in churches and various institutions and chaplaincy programs. They are also among those who organize the sharing of Scriptures at fairs, conventions, parades and other public events. By the end of 1973 they had estab-

lished more than 625 Scripture Courtesy Centers in all 50 states—each a convenient neighborhood location where Scriptures are available.

These are but a few of the many ways in which 117,317,595 Scriptures were put into the readers' hands in the United States in 1973. Many people working in many ways for one purpose—bringing the "Good News" to everyone.

Good News In The U.S.A. is reprinted with permission by American Bible Society/God's Word For A New Age from the May 1974 issue, Vol. 119, No. 5 of the AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD.

WEST FACES CRISIS OF LEADERSHIP

'Distress of nations with perplexity . . .'

From Canberra to Quebec, and from Bonn to Jerusalem, shock waves of political disasters have rattled the foundations of Western governments, bringing the world to new crises that seemed to match the prophetic description of Jesus Christ in Luke 21:25, "And upon earth, distress of nations with perplexity."

Scandals, feuding, resignations and runaway inflation filled the news as men grasped for solutions that elude them.

Nobel Prize-winning Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany resigned in the wake of a spy scandal, weakening Bonn's relations with the Soviet bloc and affecting the United States as well.

In Iceland, Premier Olafur Johannesson's leftist coalition government fell during an internal dispute over how to control inflation and stimulate a sagging economy.

In Canada, Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's minority government fell after losing a no-confidence vote in Parliament over economic strategy.

In Australia, the first Labor Party government in 25 years was forced to call a midterm election in a bid to get a majority in Parliament as rising living costs brought widespread discontent.

In March, Britain's Conservative cabinet fell, succeeded by a Labor regime that is having great difficulty with the economy and with violence imported from Northern Ireland.

Italy's government also fell in March. Premier Mariano Rumor organized the nation's 36th government since World War II. But soaring costs of living, weak currency, and rampant strikes which ousted the former government also plague the new.

In Denmark, quick maneuvering saved the minority Liberal government from certain defeat, granting it a limited four-day reprieve in its attempt to present an approved budget.

Belgium's general elections in early spring were intended to resolve a crisis. Instead, the nation is currently operated by a shaky center-right minority.

Portugal's 40-year-old dictatorship has been overthrown, leaving the country in an uncertain political stance.

Neighboring Spain worries about Portugal's headaches and fears student uprisings in Madrid that are inspired by the Portuguese military coup.

The political upheaval in Portuguese Angola has sent shock waves throughout Africa as rebels make Guerrilla warfare against their Western colonizers.

India, already in the throes of a shaky economy, faced a massive rail strike, threatening Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government.

In the Middle East, discontent led to Prime Minister Golda Meir's resignation. Economic and political difficulties engendered by the conflict with the Arabs have divided the country of Israel.

France's head of state died from a long illness, robbing that nation of a leader.

The United States, richest and strongest, continues to reel from surprising disclosures resulting from Watergate investigations. Solutions are elusive.

One day when history is consummated we shall see how perfectly all things worked out—how meaningful every detail was. Meanwhile, those who place their confidence in the God of history experienced no lack of leadership for "God works in everything for good to them that love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose."

"The Word of God is the fruit of the soul." If it is bitter to you, if it is nauseous, what doubt is there that your soul is infected with disease?

Anon

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Malcolm Muggeridge, noted British journalist, humorist and veteran observer of the world scene, told 4,000 evangelicals meeting here that Western civilization is in an advanced stage of decomposition.

He blamed the media, especially television, for so "accustoming us to the gradual deterioration of our values and our circumstnces" that another dark age may have already begun without anyone noticing it.

"As a matter of urgency," said Muggeridge in a special guest appearance before a plenary session of the International Congress on World Evangelization, "Christians must decide how they should conduct themselves in the face of so apocalyptic a situation."

In a personal testimony of his search for meaning in life, Muggeridge noted that it is perfectly feasible to live a hedonistic way of life. Unfortunately, he said, it leaves something lacking which makes everything else seem savorless.

"For me, the experience of living . . . is nearly over. It is a prospect, I am thankful to say, that I can face without panic, fear or undue remorse, confident that as a part of God's creation I am a participant in His purposes. . . ."

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer, founder and leader of the L'Abri Fellowship which has attracted intellectuals from around the world to Huemoz, Swizerland, said that the watershed of the evangelical world is the authority of Scripture. Evangelicals must not compromise their views that the Bible is true and infallible, he said.

Schaeffer warned the group to back away from the compromise of Scripture but to be careful of another danger from behind, which he described as a "sterile orthodoxy without the practice of a beauty of community that reaches across all language, color and social strata. . . ."

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — North American Christians who have been concerned over reports that African churches were in favor of a moratorium on both Western missionaries and funds can breathe easier.

That view, which has been espoused primarily by John Gatu, general secretary of the Presbyterian Church in East Africa, is being thoroughly rejected here by African evangelicals attending the International Congress on World Evangelization.

East Africa leaders representing Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda met with Gatu this week to better understand his position as previously reported in the press. In addition to his stand on missionaries and funds, Gatu has been reported as saying that Africans should evangelize Africans and forget about the rest of the world.

Gatu explained carefully that he was very much in favor of cross-cultural evangelism. His concern, he said, was to develop African Christians to the point where they would consider world evangelization their responsibility, too. Africans have to be taught, challenged and permitted to do more.

Gatu pointed out that he is not in favor of an immediate cessation of missionary activity and funds. Neither does he believe that such a cessation, should it occur three or four years from now, be permanent.

But he believes that the African church is over dependent upon the West and that if Western assistance was stopped for a while it would force Africans to assume new responsibilities. While some institutions might initially be closed for lack of qualified personnel, he believes that God's Holy Spirit will bring out new leaders. He's not convinced, he said, that every pastor in Africa has to study history's great theologians in order to evangelize and minister to people.

Gatu strongly emphasized that his views were personal and that the moratorium question was one which should be decided by the African churches themselves.

Those meeting with Gatu made it clear that they agreed, in principle, with his goal of a stronger African church under African leadership. But to consider a moratorium, however temporary, is a failure to consider the misunderstanding and hurt it would cause Americans and others who have been sacrificially giving to mission causes.

"Educated Africans are where we are because of missionaries," noted retired Uganda Bishop Erica Sabiti. "To discuss a moratorium is being ungrateful." The bishop pointed out that in his country 15 of the 16 bishops are Africans; it is a developement of self leadership that has come about naturally.

Dr. Israel Katoke of Tanzania added that his country is "more committed and more willing to have missionaries as long as they do not interfere with the political setup. I speak as an individual Christian, but also for the record as a government

official." Katoke is director of research in traditions and cultures.

The Rev. Gottfried Osei Mensah of the Nairobi (Kenya) Baptist Church reminded his evangelical brothers that it would be unchristian to tell people to go away, He crystallized the issue as one of leadership, stewardship and personnel. "We must help John (Gatu) find a way to develop the indigenous church in cooperation with missionaries so that all of us can work together as the body of Christ."

Views similar to the Africans have also been expressed by other Third World leaders among the 3,000 participants in Lausanne from over 150 nations. If the task of world evangelization is to be completed in this century, they feel, more missionaries are needed throughout the world than ever before.

Dr. Billy Graham himself, in his keynote address, pointed out that great multitudes of people are cut off from their Christian neighbors by deep linguistic, political and culture chasms. For Christians to build evangelistic strategies on "near neighbor" evangelism alone, would shut out at least one billon individuals from hearing about Jesus Christ.

"Churches of every land," he emphasized, "must deliberately send out evangelists and missionaries to master other languages, learn other cultures and, perhaps, live in them for life."

His statement that evangelicals "should thus reject the idea of a moratorium on sending missionaries" was loudly applauded.

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Dr. Carlos Rene Padilla told participants at the International Congress on World Evangelization meeting here that the form of Christianity which has been associated with the "American Way of Life" and which is presently dominating the world scene has confused Scripture with culture. In the opinion of this Latin American evangelical, American cultural Christianity, as no other today, has a powerful influence in the world.

Padilla, the associate general secretary for Latin America with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, taught that when the church lets itself be squeezed into the mold of the world it loses the capacity to see, and denounce the social evils in its own situation. "It is like a color blind person who is able to distinguish certain colors, but not others," said the U.S. educated youth worker.

"In my understanding, this is the only way one can explain, for example, how it is possible for American culture Christianity to integrate racial and class segregation into its strategy for world evangelization," stated Padilla. His remarks were widely applauded.

"Culture Christianity," he said, "promotes the idea that people like to be with those of their own race and class and that, therefore, segregated churches must be planted for fast growth.

"We are told that race prejudices 'can be understood and should be made an aid to Christianization,' but no amount of maneuvering can ever bring this approach in line with New Testament teachings regarding the unity of men in the Body of Christ," said the 44-year-old Argentinian. Some Third World participants in the congress asked who told him it was an aid.

Padilla admitted that American Christians are not the only ones who may fall into the trap of confusing Scriptures and cultures. He centered his denouncement of such Christians upon the United States, he explained, because of the "wide influence of this variety of culture Christianity in evangelical circles around the world."

"Cultural Christianity takes place," he explained, "when a church is not faithful to the Gospel and becomes an instrument of the status quo. Any Gospel that leaves untouched our life in the world, in relation to other men and creation, is not the Christian Gospel, but culture Christianity adjusted to the mood of the day.

This kind of Gospel is cheap and it will be accepted by many because it demands nothing of them."

Padilla also noted that cross culture Christianity has approached the strategy for the evangelization of the world with a "technological mentality." That's the mentality according to which efficacy is the absolute criterion and on this basis seeks the systemization of methods and resources to obtain pre-established results.

While technology has its place in evangelization, the South American explained, "the problem comes when technology is made to substitute for Scripture under the assumption that what we need is a better strategy, not a more Biblical Gospel and a more faithful church."

Padilla also made a plea for the unity of the Christian church throughout the world. "If the church is really one," he said, "there is no place for the assumption that one section of it has a monopoly on interpreting the Gospel or defining Christian mission."

"Those of us who live in the Third World cannot and should not be satisfied with the rote repetition of doctrinal formula or the indiscriminate application of canned methods of evangelization imported from the West," he stated.

Padilla made it clear that while the church should be concerned with social needs and justice, it has not been called to solve all the world's problems. The greatest contribution that the church can make to the world, he believes, is to "be a community of reconciliation, a community of personal authenticity, and a community of serving and giving."

In delivering his paper "Evangelization and the World," Padilla expressed more than just his own beliefs. Planners of the International Congress on World Evangelization distributed position papers to each participant several months ago. Each participant was asked to respond in writing. Padilla's presentation, therefore, reflected the thoughts of some other participants and answered those of others.

World Religious News in Review

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO STAY AS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS GAIN

WHEATON, Ill. (EP)—American public schools will remain but Christian schools will continue to accelerate, an article in an evangelical magazine claims.

Elmer Towns, writing in the September issue of Christian Life, cites statistics and authorities to support his contentions.

Christian schools have grown 47 per cent in the past decade, Towns reports. He cites material released by a division of the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The number of new fundamentalist-oriented private schools number between 6,000 and 10,000, the article quotes Dr. Al Janney, president of the American Association of Christian Schools.

An estimated 15 to 18 per cent of American pupils attend such private schools, the article claims.

Public schools, however, are in no danger of collapse, Towns adds. He notes that the system involves 59.5 million students, 3 million teachers, 300,000 administrators and spends $80 billion, or 8 per cent of the Gross National Product.

CHANGING ROLE NOTED FOR CLERGY WIVES

NEW YORK (EP)—No longer are wives of clergymen and rabbis expected to share their husband's lifetime work, helping with every bazaar, supper and committee meeting and wondering if she's living up to expectations, according to the New York Times.

A survey indicated that wives of ministers are managing shops, doing social work, writing for the theater, practicing medicine, teaching school, working as skilled laborers, leading art tours and serving as executives.

"What she is almost certainly not doing is acting as half of a team in a church or synagogue—the unpaid half," the report stated.

DIESEL RIG OUTFITTED AS TRUCKERS' CHAPEL

ONTARIO, Canada (EP) — A mobile chapel housed in a huge white tractor-trailer truck seating 40 drivers, is being pulled to truck stops throughout North America by Transport for Christ Int'l., headquartered in Ontario, Canada.

Purpose of the ministry is to evangelize employees of the trucking and motor transport industries, to promote safety by assisting in the development of spiritual and emotional stability in transport drivers, and to extend to truckers everywhere counsel and friendship in times of crisis.

Founded in 1951, the ministry now has 40 trucker-evangelists, seven chaplains and scores of workers in 18 areas.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Acceptance of abortion may lead to euthanasia (mercy killing) on the orders of "competent authorities," with an eventual result that there might be "no life without a license," the July 26 issue of Christianity Today warns.

The evangelical magazine's editorial cites examples of earlier warnings that step by step control of life is possible, ,and declares, "if you are not actively opposing what is going on in our own country, in the direction of total control of human life," Americans have the answer to how Hitler was unopposed by German Christians when he began racial "improvements."

Abortion opponents, before the Supreme Court decision allowing abortion, cautioned that it would be the first step in an assault on human life. This could include genetic controls, forcible limitations on family size and euthanasia.

Although pro-abortion forces rejected these warnings as unrealistic and hysterical, the editorial continues, there is evidence to the contrary. The editorial cites Professor Joseph Fletcher, advocate of situation ethics, as saying abortion and mercy killing are "ethically inseparable."

The journal cautions that some Christians who have incorporated "disinceptives' into their own educational programs should "take a long look at the second state, 'penalization' and 'controls.' "

The reference is to a population control project which first offer tax disadvantages to parents with more than two children. The state would then penalize deliberate violations of the small family and set up controls to prevent violations, the editorial claims.

The editorial notes some speakers have suggested that no newborn infant be declared human until it has passed certain tests regarding its genetic endowment. "Have you ever wondered how Germany's Christians could have remained silent and indifferent when Hitler began his far-reaching scheme of racial 'improvement?' " the editorial asks. The answer, the editorial asserts, lies in those Christians who are not actively opposing what is now going on in this country.

PRESBYTERIAN LINKS DECLINE TO LACK OF EVANGELISM

OMAHA, Neb. (EP) Over the past four years, the 8,000 United Presbyterian Churches in the U.S.A. have shown an increase only of 1.4 per cent in new adult membership per church per year, according to Dr. Clinton Marsh here.

The second black elected moderator of the 98 per cent white denomination added that over the same period the church's national membership dropped from about three million to 2.9 million.

"Certain people say that this is because of the social involvement of the church," Dr. Marsh declared, "but this isn't true. The problem lies with the members. They have been doing too little evangelism."

He admitted that many people are "against our social involvement. This dates back to 1971 when the United Presbyterian Church gave $10,000 to the Angela Davis defense fund."

Because of heavy criticism, blacks in the church replaced the money. Angela Davis later was acquitted.

Dr. Marsh made the comments during an interview in Kent, Ohio, with a reporter from the Cleveland Plain Dealer. The clergyman said there are "three chief divisions in the church—distrust of the church and its national leaders, arguments of the evangelists and the racial issues."

COMMUNITY ACTION URGED AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

BOSTON, Mass.—The threat of further inroads of pornography in local communities of all sizes across the U.S. will not diminish without the united action of concerned citizens, indicated Mr. Floyd Robertson, assistant to the NAE General Director, Washington, D.C. He spoke to members of NAE's Evangelical Social Action Commission during the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals held here.

Laying the groundwork to the present permissive climate, Mr. Floyd Robertson gave the history of the legal attitude toward pornography in the U.S. He pointed out that when, in the Miller vs. California case, the Supreme Court returned control to the local community it gave the evangelical church an advantage in controlling pornography in the town or city.

In presenting a plan for community action Robertson said local groups of evangelicals need to organize hand picked workers to survey the local scene and plan strategy. The problem needs to be publicized in churches and Christian organization. He urged the mobilization of evangelicals in their communities to assist in campaigns, to make personal visits to problem store-owners or theater owners, to push for better legislation to get support of city councils, police departments, legal help, etc.

Mr. Robertson noted that more effective sex education through the church and home was needed to head off the morbid hang-ups too often found emanating from homes of strict religious background. Personal self-education plus group education was urged to make evangelicals knowledgeable in their community needs and campaigns, with resource materials made available to church members.

EDITORS JUBILANT OVER S.411, CITE POSTAL SAVINGS OF MILLION IN 1 YR.

By Russell T. Hitt, EPA Postal Representative

Member publications of the Evangelical Press Association will save an estimated $1 million in postage during the next 12 months as a result of the signing into law of Postal Bill S.411.

The chief feature of the law stretches out the phasing of the per-piece surcharge from seven to thirteen years.

The significant benefit of the law to non-profit second class publications—although it aids other classifications also—is that it stretches the phasing of the per-piece surchage from seven to 13 years. There are savings, too, in the per-pound rate both for non-advertising and advertising portions of magazines. Profit-oriented magazines are also helped by the law which was signed by President Nixon June 30.

The controversial per-piece surcharge of 2.2¢ was to become effective in 1981. The new law advances this date to 1987.

The non-profit second class publications' per-piece charge will not increase in the fiscal year which began July 6, 1974. It will remain at .4¢ instead of the .6¢ scheduled before the new law was passed.

While it is impossible to figure the exact savings to specific publications because of differences in frequency of publication, weight, the percentage of advertising, and distances publications are mailed, these examples will give some idea of the savings EPA publications will experience just on the per-piece rate:

Magazine A, a weekly with 10,000 circulation, will save $20 a week or $1,000 a year for 50 issues.

Magazine B with 50,000 circulation will save $5,000 per year.

Magazine C, a monthly with 20,000 circulation, will save $480 a year.

Magazine D, a monthly with 300,000 circulation, will save $7,000 a year.

Non-profit third class per-piece rates will increase from 1.7¢ to 1.8¢. Before S.411 was passed the increase would have gone to 1.9¢.

The approximately 160 member periodicals of the Associated Church Press will save an estimated $800,000 in the next 12 months.

Passage of the postal adjustments bill is a signal victory that follows a long struggle by four religious press associations—ACP, EPA, Catholic Press Association and the Jewish Press Association—for fair postal legislation.

Ashland Theological Seminary
10 Center
Ashland, Ohio 44805





"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

This book was printed as a memorial volume in a limited edition by the Ronk family and the Book and Pamphlet Commission. It is available at the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstores in Ashland, Ohio and Plymouth, Indiana.

The price of this book is $1.00 plus 35¢ postage and handling charge.

Send for your copy to:

THE BRETHREN BOOKSTORE
524 College Avenue 110 West LaPorte Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805 or Plymouth, Indiana 46563

The Brethren
EVANGELIST



Keep It Beautiful

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The Brethren
EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

Although Peace Sunday is usually observed in November we are featuring a guest editorial by Rev. John Brownsberger, Pastor of The First Brethren Church in Dayton, Ohio. He is a member of the Peace Committee of The Brethren Denomination.

The sounds of General Conference are still echoing faintly in the assembly room and halls of Memorial Chapel and for the most part perhaps the business of going about the daily routines in our lives is being conducted again as usual. But for one young lady who attended Conference for the first time the pattern of life has been slightly altered and a testimony about her first General Conference is found on page 5 of this issue. We trust that her story will provide an incentive for many Brethren who have never attended General Conference or perhaps even a District Conference and that they will attempt to put this on their agenda for the coming year.

Early this year a survey was published in connection with the Moderator's Manna to be filled out by members of the denomination. A compilation of the responses has been made and the result will be found on pages 16 and 17 in this issue.

Most everyone will agree that these are trying times and as we read the various articles published here we will diligently be in prayer for all the various facets of our society as they deal with the many problems which at times seem too great to overcome. Yet, there is One who is waiting patiently for us to reach out to Him for all our needs. (Editor's note)

By the Way

DECIDE FOR YOURSELF

If you were living in Nazi Germany during the Second World War or in one of the thirteen colonies of Colonial America in 1776 as a Christian, how would you have reacted to the Governments of those times? A large part of your decision would have been made on how you interpreted Romans 13:1-7.

The debate over the interpretation of this passage is raging furiously in our day. Some would hear the passage as providing all Governments, especially those of Christian Europe and America, as being established by God and that Christians are therefore to obey their Government explicitly. Many strong Christian patriots held to this view and remained "Obedient" to the English empire in 1776 and Hitler's totalitian state during World War II.

Still others see this passage as God not ordaining particular Governments, but rather the concept of "proper government"—i.e. the principles of just government. Thus as long as a particular government lives up to the principles found in Romans 13, then it can claim the sanction of a divine institution. If, on the other hand, a particular government fails to fulfill the functions divinely assigned to it, it loses its authority, becomes an unjust government and worthy of rebellion. Dietrich Bondoeffer, a German Pastor, selected this option of Romans 13, when he refused to participate in the German army and later aggressively fought against the Nazi government by being involved in the underground movement particularly in an assassination attempt on the life of Hitler.

Still another view of Romans 13 holds that what is asked of the Christian in his relationship to government is a call for subordination to whatever governments there be. This subordination applies to governments of dictators and tyrants as well as to ones with constitutional democracies. Advocates of this view point out the concrete setting of the text written to Christian Jews in Rome, facing official anti-semitism and growing government negativism toward Christians, as well as an increasing tendency of government to defy the "Head of State." The immediate meaning of the text was to call the Roman Christians away from any notion of revolution or insubordination to a stance of nonresistance toward a tyrannical government.

The "nonresistant" stance is not meant to be an unprotesting assent or consent in the face of evil, but rather what Paul means in Romans 12:7 and Jesus in Matthew 5:39, the willingness to suffer rather than using any form of violent retaliation. The foundation for such a position comes from following Christ's example (I Peter 2:18 and Philippians 2:5) or accepting subordination in the role of servanthood, and knowing that a "new order" has come (II Corinthians 5:17), not replacing the "old," but rather each existing concurrently on different levels. Living in the "new order" gives freedom from needing to smash the structures of the "old" since they are about to crumble anyway.

The Christian who accepts his subjection to Government still retains his moral independence and judgment. Whatever government exists is ordered by God; but Romans 13 does not say that whatever the government does or asks of its Citizens is good. Subordination is not the same as obedience. The Conscientious Objector, for example, who refuses to do what his government asks of him and yet remains under that government accepting any penalties it imposes, or the Roman Christian who refused to worship "Caesar as Lord" but voluntarily permits Caesar to put him to death, is being subordinate even though he is not obeying. The willingness to suffer then is seen as a "participation in the character of God's victorious patience with the rebellious powers of His Creation."

As I read Brethren History, I find the position of Non-resistance, as a basic part of our early Brethren belief. Today I see expressions of all three positions in our denomination. What position do you think Paul is Taking? Get together with someone who holds a view different from yours and in the Spirit of Christian love "wrestle" together over the meaning of Romans 13. Be sure to include Romans 12 and 14 as the context out of which Romans 13 is taken, as well as the whole book of Roman's itself.

This article no doubt reveals my position, but if possible—decide for yourself which view is the right one! God be with you!

PEACE,
John Brownsberger,
Peace Committee Member
The Brethren Church

WHAT MADE GEORGE WASHINGTON GREAT?

A vignette on a portion of his life.

by Julia A. Shelhamer

This article on George Washington was written by Mrs. E. E. Shelhamer and is being published with permission. In a brief note accompanying this article Mrs. Shelhamer very modestly pointed out that she was the wife of E. E. Shelhamer who was born in an old log cabin in the hills of Western Pennsylvania in 1869. Starting at the age of twelve to earn his own way through life, he managed to support himself through school and Wheaton College and spent the rest of his life in evangelistic work having written many books and tracts and touring the world three times as an Evangelist.

Mrs. Shelhamer (Julia) having been also ordained as a minister is still active in holding revivals, her last communique stating that she held a revival service in Los Angeles in February and just returned to Kentucky from a service conducted in New York State in March.

The article submitted by Mrs. Shelhamer was rewritten in her own words from a story that had been read or heard about our first President while the Shelhamers were on an evangelistic tour. It arrived too late to be published as a tribute to George Washington in an earlier issue commemorating his birthday but we wish to publish it now to complement many facts about this outstanding personage. (Editor's note)

It was during the French and Indian War. The battle was hot. General Braddock, who had brought from England an army of well-trained soldiers and officers, lay dead—killed by the Indians!

The whole army of English and American boys was dreadfully discouraged. Their (then) modern warfare was not a match for those illiterate Indians who were likely to rush in upon them any moment with their war whoops and poisoned arrows. Our men knew that they should flee at once, but they did not want to leave alone in the woods the body of their beloved general, cold and stiff in death. It likely would be mutilated by the Indians; and besides, our loyal-hearted men did not want him to be buried without some sort of a funeral.

But their chaplain was mortally wounded, and not one of those dignified officers with high-sounding titles knew what to do. It was a dreadful moment; every one seemed petrified with fear and horror!

Suddenly a tall angular young fellow in number eleven boots strode into their midst. He was not a commissioned officer and had no title except that of "aide-de-camp" to General Braddock. But his keen eye took in the whole sitution at once. He realized that something had to be done quickly.

So, stepping to the side of his beloved general, he stood over him with closed eyes in silent prayer. Then quietly he drew from his pocket a little book with which he seemed as familiar as some young men are with a deck of cards or a pack of cigarettes. His knowing fingers turned the pages quickly to Scripture appropriate to the occasion, and in a clear voice he read, "If a man die shall he live again?" and kindred passages, following with the ritual for burial of the dead. Lifting his voice in fervent prayer, he committed the soul of the departed to God, then turned the body over to the English officers for burial.

If Indians could find the grave they would be quite sure to take up the body to get its red uniform; therefore the grave was dug in the middle of the road so traffic would obliterate all traces of the burial. All this was done so quietly and quickly that before the Indians arrived our army had escaped to safety.

But who was that tall young man who saved the day? It was twenty-three-year-old George Washington! Where did he get the training that enabled him to take charge so quickly with such wisdom, dignity, and reverence?

Here is the secret: when George was but eleven years of age his father died. The young heart-broken wife and mother, overwhelmed with grief and responsibility, saw that she could not take her husband's place in looking after the children's spiritual needs without assistance. When she asked George to take full responsibility for conducting daily family worship he thought a moment then consented to try. It was no easy task to get the little ones together regularly for prayer and reading of the Bible, for usually children do not like to be told what to do by one of their own number. But George was patient, diplomatic, and God-fearing. With this experience he learned to govern without friction; what a wonderful preparation for governing a nation!

Besides, this unusual task his mother had assigned prepared him to help out just in the nick of time on the occasion of General Braddock's sudden death.

by Mrs. E. E. Shelhamer
213 E. College St.
Wilmore, Ky. 40390

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE AT THE BRETHREN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

by Sandy Yarian

My first impressions are from the words of a song which has a great meaning to me:

"There's a quiet understanding when we're gathered in the Spirit. It's a promise that He gives us, when we're gathered in His Name. And we know when we're together sharing love and understanding. That our brothers and our sisters feel the oneness that He brings."

I thank each one who made it possible for me to attend the Brethren Conference this year. Because of you, I was able to be a part of it, in a small way. I met new people, God's people and renewed acquaintances. Everyone was willing to help me up and down steps and to and from meetings and programs.

I came back to Tucson spirtually uplifted and I praise the Lord that through this experience I can share with others. I believe every Brethren should attend National Conference once. To me it brought me closer to the Brethren people and the National Headquarters. When I read letters, spiritual messages, news and etc. in the Evangelist, they will mean more to me because I have met some of the people who have written them.

It was a great joy to meet more of our Brethren missionaries. Dick and Kitty Winfield; Harold Barnett and Vijaya Kumar. I count it a great joy and priviledge to have witnessed Rev. Vijaya Kumar's ordination service. It was a beautiful and inspiring service and my first Brethren ordination service to attend.

I felt the spiritual inspirational services were outstanding. They moved me and strengthened my faith and witness.

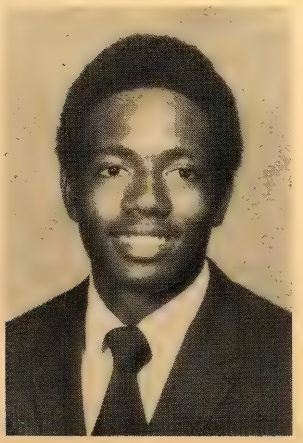
Two high-lights of the conference were the music of the youth "Discovery" program and the confernce choir on Sunday morning. There is a tremendous witness through music. "Hallelujah! Yes, Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing his praises! How delightful, and how right." (Psm. 147:1)

I will be looking forward to attending conference again some time. God has been good to me and I praise Him and thank Him for allowing me to meet more of our Brethren in Christ.

May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ grant special blessings to all of you.

In His Service,
Sandy Yarian
First Brethren Church
Tucson, Arizona

EVANGELIST REV. WILLIE BROWN JR.



Rev. Willie Brown Jr. was baptized by triune immersion in the Sarasota First Brethren Church and received into the membership by the laying on of hands and receiving the right hand of fellowship October 29, 1972.

Rev. Brown is the Vice President and Associate of the Henry L. Porter Evangelistic Association, Inc., and has traveled extensively throughout the United States for the Cause of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Brown is a graduate of Sarasota High School where he was numbered among the outstanding football players in the State of Florida. He is a graduate of Manatee Jr. College and has advanced studies at Florida A.M. University and The University of South Florida. He is also a graduate of the American Bible Institute and the Tanglewood School of the Bible. He is a graduate of the American Institute of Banking and the H. R. Block Tax Institute. He will be graduating in the future from Jackson State University in Nevada.

Rev. Brown will be employed in the Sarasota County school system as an Administrative aide and Counselor.

EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONFERENCE of the SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT of THE BRETHREN CHURCH

MASSANETTA SPRINGS

Harrisonburg, Virginia

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 1974

Theme:

"One Body In Christ"

Conference Organization

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Moderator-Elect Dr. Harold Barnett
Secretary Mrs. Loring Vance
Assistant Secretary Miss Janie Fitzwater
Treasurer Mr. Harold Babcock
Assistant Treasurer Mr. Alvin Vann
Statistician Mrs. Ralph Hutzell

Conference Music Committee

Mrs. Donna Bennett, chairman; Lois Hutzell; Lorene Mills

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

1975	Oak Hill, West Virginia
1976	Linwood,, Maryland
1977	Chandon, Virginia
1978	Bethlehem, Virginia

Delegates will be seated at the specified times only. Please refer to your program for the designated time for each seating.

PROGRAM

FRIDAY—SEPTEMBER 20

9:00- 9:45 Registration

10:00 Song Service
Words of Welcome Moderator-Elect
Devotions Bethlehem

10:30 Moderator's Message
Rev. Bruce Shanholtz
"The Church And Her Message For Today"
Song
Announcements ... Coordinator McCann
Business Session
Report of Credential Committee and Seating of Delegates
Report of District Executive Committee
Report of Camp Committee
Seating of Additional Delegates
Report of Nominating Committee and Report of Committee on Committees
Election

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Song Service
Devotions Chandon

1:45 Business Session
Report of Credential Committee and Seating of Delegates
Election Results
Report of Statistician
Report of Ashland College
Report of Ashland Theological Seminary
Report of District Board of Evangelists
Report of District Mission Board and Treasurer
Report of District Board of Christian Education

3:30 Auxiliary Sessions
W.M.S.
S.M.M.
Laymen
Ministers

4:30 Board and Committee Meetings

6:00 Dinner Hour

7:30 Evening Service
Musicale
Devotions St. James
Moderator-Elect's Message
Dr. Harold Barnett
"Putting It All Together"
Slide Presentation
Fellowship and Coffee Hour

SATURDAY—SEPTEMBER 21

8:45 Song
Devotions Mathias

9:00 Business Session
Report of Credential Committee and Seating of Additional Delegates
Reading of Minutes
District B.Y.C.
Action on District Executive Committee Report

10:00 "Denominational Advance" (Includes reports from Board of Christian Education, Publications, Missions, Benevolent Board, Retirement Board, Board of Trustees, Central Council, and General Conference)

11:00 Auxiliary Sessions
W.M.S.
S.M.M.
Laymen
Ministers

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Song
Devotions Hagerstown
Final Business Session
Report of Credential Committee and Seating of Delegates
Report of District Treasurer
Reading of Saturday's Minutes
Report of Ashland College Trustees
Action on Unified Budget for 1975
Action on Moderator's Recommendations
Action of Time and Place
Unfinished Business
Reading of Minutes
Installation of Officers

4:00 Auxiliary Sessions
W.M.S.
S.M.M.
Laymen
Ministers

5:00 Board and Committee Meetings

6:00 Evening Dinner Hour . W.M.S. Sponsored

W.M.S. Conference Program

Edna Logan, President

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Devotions Mt. Olive
Business
Speaker M. Virgil Ingraham
Benediction

SATURDAY MORNING

Devotions Maurertown
Business
Goals, project, election
Project offering
Benediction

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Devotions
Unfinished business
Speaker Chantal Logan (Argentina)
Installation of officers
Benediction
Evening W.M.S. Banquet

"Workers Together with God"

NAE Sunday, October 27, 1974

A voluntary fellowship for cooperation, the National Association of Evangelicals provides identification for 30,000 local churches from 60 affiliations.

Through this cooperative witness, 3.5 million evangelicals share in a wide range of ministries proclaiming Christ as Lord in such areas as missions, broadcasting, government relations and world relief.

NAE Sunday is designed as a reminder of the part individuals and churches can play as "workers together with God."

Observe NAE Sunday in your church and receive a free cassette

Participating churches will receive a cassette message "Remembering -We Press Forward" by Dr. Clyde W. Taylor at the 1974 NAE Convention.

NAE

MAIL TO:
National Association of Evangelicals
Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

YES, we will emphasize the ministry of NAE on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27.
Please send us these free NAE Sunday materials:

_____ copies, *BULLETIN INSERTS*
_____ copies of NAE Sunday *POSTERS*
_____ copies of *PROFILE (NAE newsletter for churches not now receiving)*

PASTOR _____
CHURCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

MONEY SAVING HINTS FOR RETIREES

by Beverly Summy
Benevolent Board

The Benevolent Board, because of its concern for the elderly, is beginning this regular column dealing with the broad spectrum of problems and programs for senior citizens.

Retired persons who must live on a fixed income are being hardest hit with our spiraling inflation and we want to share some money saving hints with you.

1. **Good Buys Offered at Food Terminals**—Private labels or house brands save about 15% over national brands and eager shoppers have been snapping them up. This has caused shortages in such items as canned fruits, vegetables and meat products. If you can still locate private label items, it would be wise to buy now.

Food-buying clubs or co-ops have been formed by some retirees and they have made groups purchases at food terminals in major cities. You will often receive a 10% (or more) discount on case lots. A list of food terminals is available by writing to: Consumer and Marketing Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 12th Street and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

2. **Beef Buys**—Beef has come down in price but it is doubtful whether it will remain at the lower levels. Losses of cattle during the summer drought in the Midwest as well as feed and grain losses will push beef prices high again during fall and winter months according to agriculturists.

3. **Soybean Food Extenders**—"Texturized vegetable protein" (TVP) is being produced by major companies that, when mixed with two-thirds hamburger, will extend the meat without detracting from its flavor. Soy products absorbs the meat flavor. Vegetable and breakfast protein substitutes are also available and they cost less and are just as nutritious.

4. **Pay Cash Instead of Using Credit Cards** — Many merchants are willing to give a discount for cash but you have to **ask** for the cash discount. A credit card purchase costs a restaurant or store from 3% to 7% more than a cash purchase. NON-credit cards are now available from some firms —show the card, pay cash, get a discount. Details are available by writing to:

UNITED INTERNATIONAL CLUB, INC.
P.O. Box 3485
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

EQUITY CLUB INTERNATIONAL
Benjamin Fox Pavillon, Foxcroft Sq.
Jenkintown, PA 19046

SAVERS CLUB OF AMERICA
20133 Darnsleigh Rd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44122

5. **Money Saving Consumer Publications**—Send for a **free** copy of **Consumer Information** available from Public Documents Distribution, Pueblo, CO 81009 to find out what consumer publications are available—many without charge. Money saving ideas on items from appliances to travel, anti-freeze to health are found in the booklet and it also details other booklets that can save you money.

"MY BROTHER'S KEEPER? WHO, ME?"

"We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts,
not breaths;
In feelings, not the figures on a dial.
We should count time by heart-throbs when
they beat
For God, for man, for duty.
He most lives who thinks most—
Feels the noblest—acts the best.
Life is but a means unto an end—that end,
Beginning, meaning, and end to all things,
God.

—P. J. Bailey

The above poem was used by Rosemary Eddy, Executive Consultant of The Brethren's Home in Indiana to express how meaningful it was to her feelings about the ministry to the aged in both the Nursing Home and the Apartments.

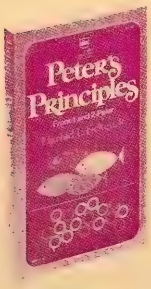
It entered your editor's mind that these same thoughts may be broadcast on a wave-length that would encompass not only the elderly in our immediate families, but to those of all ages in our neighborhoods, communities and in our local churches. Especially should this be true in this day and age when involvement concerning the welfare of our fellow-man seems to border on he or she becoming nothing of real importance other than perhaps being another number on an IBM machine.

(Editor)

The strong should bear—not bare—the infirmities of the weak.—Theodore Roosevelt

PETER'S PRINCIPLES

by Dr. Harold L. Fickett, Jr.



Pressures . . . struggles . . . busyness . . . discouragements . . . suffering. . . .

No doubt you can identify with some of these experiences. If you can, then you can also identify with Christians living nearly 2,000 years ago and find encouragement from two letters written to them—with the help of PETER'S PRINCIPLES.

Peter's first and second letters in the Bible were written to Christians living under pressure. Although some of the circumstances today are different, the pressure upon Christians is still the same.

Peter's letters reflect the reality, not only of this struggle, but also of his victories. Throughout his writings he reminds the reader that this victory is available in Christ to all Christians in all circumstances through the power of the Holy Spirit.

PETER'S PRINCIPLES, applied to your day-to-day struggles, will lead to encouragement, victory in Christ, personal Christian growth, and joyous discipleship.

A Teaching/Learning kit will be available for group study on September 1.

Dr. Harold L. Fickett, Jr., is a graduate of Baylor University (A.B.) and Southern Baptist Seminary (Th.M.). He has the Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He writes from a rich background of pastoral ministry and since 1959 has served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Van Nuys, California. He is in great demand as a conference speaker. PETER'S PRINCIPLES is Dr. Fickett's third REGAL book.

This is a book that can be most resourceful to new and maturing Christians alike and is available now in paperback, 223 pages for $1.45 at our Brethren Bookstore.

MISSIONARY NEWS

NIGERIAN STUDY TOUR — PART III

Jos — Kaduna — Lagos — and other places

by Edna Logan



In the July 27th and August 10th issues of the Brethren Evangelist we have shared parts I and II of a report of the Nigerian Study Tour by Mrs. Mark Logan Sr. A number of Brethren visited Nigeria in late 1973 as a part of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the beginning of Brethren mission work in Nigeria. In this issue we continue with part III of this report.

The 20 people in our tour group and our guides had been going hard and fast for two weeks. So at the beginning of the third week we had a nice break at Yankari Game Reserve. We slept in round mud huts with grass roofs. The windows had no screens so that lizards could go in and out as they chose. By this time we were used to the little fellows and did not mind too much. We were more worried about the mosquitoes.

The end of the rainy season is a bad time to look for animals. The grass is thick and high and the animals had not yet been forced out to the water holes. On our safari around the reserve we saw a few water bucks, plenty of tsetse flies, some beautiful birds and a lot of huge ant hills. On the way to the reserve a couple dozen monkeys scampered off the road as we approached.

As I was walking around the reserve grounds I met two young men who worked there. We talked and they asked me a lot of things about the United States and how we lived. They wanted to know about the food we eat, how tall the houses were, etc. Then they asked "What is Watergate?" Imagine trying to explain that to a couple of Nigerians! There was a warm springs pool where we took a refreshing dip. We had time for discussion and evaluation before we left for Jos.

On our way we stopped in Bauchi to visit Musa's wife (Musa was our Nigerian tour guide.) She is a midwife who rides a motorcycle. She served us a bountiful "snack" under some big trees. There was quasis, (a bean cake) a doughnut type pastry, pieces of fish and chicken and soft drinks. With the exception of the chicken and fish this was our fare at the many receptions in our honor. Sometimes ground nuts ((peanuts) were served too.

Although Jos is outside the Larden Gabas area, it is an imporant city to the missionaries and their families. The vacation compound, where we stayed is where they go to rest, shop or visit with their children who attend Hillcrest School.

Hillcrest was started by the Brethren for missionary children in 1942. It had one teacher and 12 students in grades 1-4. In 1972-73 there were 345 pupils in grades 1-12 of 16 different nationalities. They are children of Nigerians, foreign diplomats and business men as well as missionaries from 14 mission bodies. The largest number are Americans. Nigerians are second in number and then British. The future of Hillcrest School is uncertain as much of the mission work is being turned over to Nigerians. We had a tour of the school, a talk with the principal, and a delicious friend chicken dinner—American style.

While in Jos we went shopping and visited a museum where we learned more about Nigeria and her history. We enjoyed food and fellowship with the Royers and the Cayfords, who are house parents at Hillcrest School.

From Jos we drove through tin mining country to Bukuru for a visit to the Theological college of Northern Nigeria. Enroute we stopped to take a picture of the local laundromat—women washing clothes in the river and drying them on rocks.

T.C.N.N. is a cooperative venture of eight denominations, that trains students beyond schools like Kulp Bible School. The Chalmer Faws were our hosts. Larden Gabas students showed us around the grounds. There were class room buildings, residence housing for faculty and students and a beautiful chapel. In the library I found copies of the Evangelist. (A familiar sight in a very different setting.)

Following our tour, and food provided by the Faws, we had a sharing time with our student guides. They admitted that although they were all Christians studying for the ministry, it was hard for them to love and trust fellow students from a different tribe. Prejudices exist in Nigeria, not between black and white but between Margi and Falany or Chibuk and Higi. This is understandable when we realize that a very few years ago these tribes were fighting and killing each other.

They asked us about the generation gap in the United States. It is a very real problem in Nigeria. The children learn to read and write. They travel beyond their village to the cities or even abroad. It is very hard for the young to continue in the old ways of the tribe. It is equally hard for parents to give up the old customs or to accept new ways.

We flew out of Jos about 9 a.m. Friday, October 19th, and arrived at Kaduna about 45 minutes later. Ivan and Mary Eikenberry met us. Ivan is very active in the field of education in six northern states. There is no organized Brethren work in Kaduna but hundreds of Larden Gabas people live there and make a contribution to the area.

We visited a Baptist Bible School. It was operated much as K. B. S. The whole family is receiving training, each on his own level. We were especially impressed with some pre-school children who sang their national anthem, prayed the Lord's Prayer and danced for us.

We traveled in and around the city in a rickety old bus. The doors did not go shut and one of the seats was loose. None of them were very comfortable, but it always got us there and back safely.

Our longest trip was to Zaria, where we visited Ahmadu Bello University. It is the first university in Northern Nigeria. Although it has grown at an amazing rate in its 11 years of existence, it cannot meet the needs of all those desiring degrees. Because of the strong educational background of Larden Gabas many students have and are now attending the University. Some have become teachers. One, M. Bitrus Sava, is Deputy Registrar in charge of planning. He was our guide. In the evening there was a social hour where we met and talked with Larden Gabas people.

Between Kaduna and Zaria is the village of Wusasa where we stopped to greet the village chief and visit the oldest church in Northern Nigeria. M. Anfani was an early missionary in Larden Gabas. The Eikenberrys consider him a real Christian Saint. St. Bartholomews Anglican Church has a beautiful vaulted ceiling and carpet on the floor that goes up over the backless seats, providing padded pews.

We went sightseeing and shopping in Kaduna and ate in a Nigerian restaurant. Nanettes is unique. Restaurants, other than those catering to tourist and traveling business men, are rare. Even in cities people eat in their homes or buy quasis (bean cake) and other snacks that are cooked and eaten on the sidewalks. Nanettes does a thriving business. The only reason she could accommodate 25 people was because it was during the Moslem's fasting period. The menu was varied and different to us.

In the evening the Eikenberrys entertained us at a buffet dinner in their home. Other guests were two churchmen (an Anglican and a Catholic) and George Trail the U.S. Consul and his wife. After dinner we had a discussion about Nigeria and her future.

While the men visited a polytechnic school, the women talked with some members of a woman's club in an orphanage which they sponsor. A woman's club in Nigeria is in itself sort of a miracle. Although Christian women may meet together for work, worship and fellowship, it is not the usual thing for women to organize in this way. They were Moslems, Christians and heathens working together. They received financial help for the building from Rotary Clubs International. They served us tea and we had a nice chat. They demonstrated how to do their hair styles, and their head wrappers.

Our last day in Kaduna was also our last Sunday in Nigeria. There were several alternatives as to church attendance. I chose to go to the eight o'clock service of the Sudan Interior Mission. I had thought the large attendance we'd seen in Nigerian churches was because we were there (probably some of it was). This Sunday no one knew we were coming. (White faces are not so rare in the city.) The church was filled for the eight o'clock English service. As we left people were arriving for the ten o'clock meeting. We counted 12 people get out of one land rover. It was nice to participate in a service that I could understand and join in singing familiar hymns.

After lunch we packed our bags and went to attend our last reception. It was in a lovely home and garden of a former Larden Gabas family. From there we went to the airport where we bade farewell to Musa, our guide and friend, and boarded a plane for Lagos.

Lagos is the largest city and the capital of Nigeria. The contrasts of the country are very evident here. From our modern, air conditioned hotel room we looked down the street. On one side were modern concrete buildings, on the other side were shed-like stalls where merchants displayed their wares. Behind the sheds, directly across from our hotel was a big dump. About a half block in the other direction was a modern department store.

We were transported around Lagos in three vans with a young guide from Hertz. The trips

between the airport and our downtown hotel were breathtaking experiences. Automobiles have come in large numbers to a city that has neither the streets or the traffic regulations to take care of them. Imagine a city of over 655,000 and one stop light. We would speed along for a short distance, then stop for about five minutes. Cars seemed to be going in all directions. Drivers yelled at each other and blew their horns continuously. People on foot or on bicycles wove in and out amid the maze of cars. It was equally breathtaking when we were the pedestrian.

Our guide took us around the city and we ate lunch in a nice restaurant that overlooked the ocean. It was indeed a beautiful sight. Here again was a sharp contrast to the dirty, smelly market with its open sewer that we visited an hour later.

The last evening in Lagos and Nigeria was special. For the last time we sat down together. Larry Elliot and three Nigerians joined us in Wilber Mullen's hotel room. The room was not large so we sat on the floor when all the chairs and beds were used. Wilber had received word of his father's death. The Nigerian minister conducted a touching memorial service. Once more we saw in action the Christian love that generated in Larden Gabas and spread here to this big city.

There followed a time of sharing. Veda told of her joy in being able to return to Nigeria and her sorrow on leaving. Others of the group expressed their feelings. One person said it so well. She said, "When Christ died all of his followers were sad because they thought it was the end of everything. But Christ is still living and His Word is still being spread abroad. We are at the end of our tour, but it is not the end. Twenty people are going out from here. They will spread the word of how God's love has come and is changing lives in Nigeria."

We joined hands as we sang and prayed together. It was a nice farewell to all our Nigerian friends. Then the Nigerians ordered cokes for us—this time they were cold.

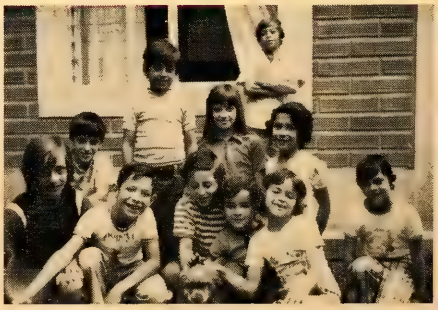
The next morning we flew out of Nigeria. Everyone was a more knowledgeable, better person for having been a part of the Nigerian Study Tour.

SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME

by Kenneth L. Solomon

This was a day of various "Firsts." This morning we took advantage of the results of "OPERATION FRIENSHIP" and invited our new little friends to come to the first meeting of our Bible Club. It was a real joy to, with the help of Joel and Margaret, teach them the lovely songs of praise to Jesus and to hear them sing them for the first time. Many of those present had gone with us and witnessed the first baptism and there had sung the two choruses that they had previously learned from us. Now we sang them again and then taught them some new ones. One you would have recognized was "Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah!"

We have contact with a Child Evangelism director here in Medellin who has offered to help prepare Becky to become more capable of taking charge of this new evangelistic outreach of The Brethren Church here in our "Barrio." There are many, many children to be reached. The possibilities are tremendous. PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS WORK WITH THE CHILDREN.



A group of neighborhood children with Joel and Margi Solomon. Kenneth Solomon spends two hours per week with them in Bible Studies and teaching.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



ON THE ROAD

After three workshops in Goshen, Peru, and Bryan, the Brethren House staff knows what it must have felt like to be circuit riders (or migrant workers or even gypsies). The 1970 Chevrolet station wagon does give the appearance of vagabonds. In fact, two gas station attendants asked if we were moving. We're having a great time, but also discovering that workshop-conducting is tiring.

Since I am due back in Florida early to begin teaching in a new school in Pinellas Park, I left the workshop route at Bryan so that I could rest in Ashland for a few days (where and when I'm writing this article) before flying home on August 4th. Susan (our daughter) will take my place.

Even though assembling and disassembling church fellowship halls for Learning Center Workshops is fatiguing, we have enjoyed the experiences immensely. And this is due to the sharing people who have attended and made us feel welcome. Also at each location we needed, and appreciated, the one on hand to help arrange the room and set up displays for the first Workshop.

In Peru, Indiana, 39 people attended the first night and 21 people, the second. Brethren came from Peru, Kokomo, Tiosa, Loree, Corinth, and County Line. We were delighted also to meet some Methodists from Beach Grove and one Methodist lady from Peru. A special surprise was in store for Phil on the second night of the workshop when our hostess interrupted one of the sessions to present a lovely birthday cake for Phil (his 43rd). So we had a party-segment in the Peru workshop.

Then it was on to Bryan, Ohio. The 80 people attending the first night came from Bryan, Toledo, Defiance, Ashland, Bluffton, Montpelier, Napoleon, Lima, Camdus, Michigan; and Blissfield, Michigan. About half of the group were Brethren; the others were Methodists, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Evangelical Mennonite. These non-Brethren folks have had contact with us through our newsletter or from others receiving the newsletter. It was good to meet all of them.

We are so grateful for all of the care we received on our "tour." The clean sheets and showers meant so much away from home, as did all of the tasty meals we received. And the people who stayed after each worshop to pack were great help. They speeded the process considerably. There were many tables to be moved and other furniture to he rearranged. We hope we didn't upset things too much. Although we always tried to get items of furniture back where we first found them, we probably neglected some. We trust those host churches will be patient and forgiving with us.

The fellowship has been an extra bonus during this venture. We enjoyed visiting with friends, both old and new. Although I am leaving the staff for a brief time, my thoughts and prayers continue with them and all of you who will participate in the future workshops. We trust that God's Word is being proclaimed through these gatherings.

Jean, for the staff

KUMARS WIN WARSAW HEARTS



Plans and preparations were being made for our Vacation Bible School. No definite decision was made upon the project of the daily offerings. However, after K. Prasantha and Nirmala Kumar presented their mission work in a visit here, it was unanimous where we wanted our offering to go. To add a little excitement for the children of the Bible School, a poster was made with a plane on a landing strip with the plains, mountains, sky and clouds above. With each day's effering the plane would rise up into the sky with our goal of reaching the clouds and soaring across the ocean to India with a love gift. On the closing night it did just that as our offering of $90.75 exceeded the goal we had posted. Children and adults were excited and gave a round of applause.

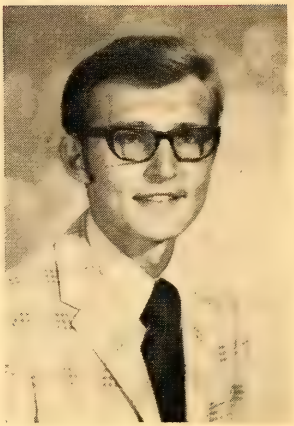
Notice I said on the closing night. Yes, this was a first for Warsaw—a night Bible School with classes for every age. We feel it was a great success and will probably try it again next year, with the hopes of an extended week. A short program was given on Friday night and refreshments and a fellowship period followed.

The Woman's Missionary Society also voted to send their clothing projects of this past year to India, along with some medical supplies. Yes, the Kumars won our hearts in Warsaw.

Jane Stogsdill

ORDINATION SERVICE

RODNEY A. THOMAS



Rodney A. Thomas was born September 9, 1949 at Cumberland, Maryland to Carl and Nancy Thomas. He attended grade school in Baltimore, Maryland and went to Junior and Senior High in Fremont, Ohio, having graduated from Ross High in 1969. He entered Toccoa Falls Bible College, Toccoa Falls, Georgia in the fall of 1969, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Bible-Theology and also Evangelical Teachers Training Certification (E.T.T.A.) on April 26, 1974.

Rod married Barbara Jean Roberts of Green Spring, West Virginia, formerly a Ross High graduate and also a graduate of the Cumberland School of Cosmotology in Maryland. They have one child, Timothy Michael, age ten months.

He was raised in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church from the age of two weeks to the age of fifteen years, at which time the family entered the Brethren Denomination for his Dad to serve as pastor of the Fremont First Brethren Church.

Rod was called to pastor the Huntington, Indiana Church and began his ministry there June 16, 1974.

The Ordination Service was conducted on June 28, 1974 at 7:30 P.M. in the First Brethren Church of Fremont, Ohio where Rev. Carl Thomas, father of Rodney is Pastor.

Assisting in the ordination in addition to his father were: Mr. Howard Ross, Deacon; Mr. Larry Ross, Moderator; Rev. William E. Thomas, Rev. Wilbur Thomas and Rev. Smith F. Rose, Executive Secretary of the Central Council Office of Ashland, Ohio.

BRETHREN BOND OF PRAYER

Men and women are continuing to join the **BOND OF PRAYER** and are praying regularly for God to supply pastors, missionaries, Christian education leadership and all types of workmen for the Kingdom.

Additional persons who have united in this **Bond of Prayer** are:

Mr. & Mrs. James McGraw
Rev. & Mrs. Ron Ritchey
Rev. & Mrs. Jim Cole
Dr. & Mrs. J. D. Hamel
Ms Shirley Fields
Rev. Robert Bischof
Rev. George Solomon
Rev. Norman Long
Ms Neva L. Hundley
Rev. Leonard Bennett
Ms Pauline Benshoff
Mr. Tom Burch
Rev. Marlin McCann
Mr. Craig Howard
Rev. Joe Hanna
Ms Bernice Metheney
Rev. Bill Walk
Mrs. Harold Barnett
Mrs. Duane Dickson
Ms Carolyn Brandon
Rev. Robert Keplinger
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Denlinger
Ms Dorothy Beal
Mr. Robert Guenzler
Mr. Perry Deeter
Rev. & Mrs. Gene Beekley
Rev. & Mrs. Rodney Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Gene A. Geaslen
Mrs. Kay Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Haven

If you want to join these people in this BOND OF PRAYER will you please indicate that desire by writing to me:

Charles R. Munson
Ashland Theological Seminary
Ashland, Ohio 44805

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

News Release

NEW YORK—"Good News, America!"

The American Bible Society today enters the nation's bicentennial era with the announcement of this new slogan—"Good News, America!"—a theme designed to relate the Scriptures to the nation's 200th birthday celebration.

"The best news is that the entire Bible in the Today's English Version will be published in 1976," asserted the Rev. Dr. Laton E. Holmgren, general secretary. "This bicentennial Bible will be the Society's gift to America on its 200th anniversary and may well be the publication event of the decade."

When the New Testament was published in the Today's English Version in 1966, it zoomed right to the top of the best seller list and remained on that list for four years. It is now the best selling paperback in history, having taken that place in 1971.

Encouraged by this skyrocketing success, a team of scholars headed by the Rev. Dr. Robert G. Bratcher, research associate of the American Bible Society, began translation of the Old Testament in the Today's English Version in 1967.

The "Good News Bible" is expected to exceed the distribution record of "Good News for Modern Man," the popular name for the Today's English Version New Testament. For all those who cannot afford even the miniscule nonprofit cost of the entire "Good News Bible," the society plans to distribute Good News Scriptures, where needed, without charge, to the helpless, the homeless, the hopeless.

Through "Good News, America!" the Bible Society, in partnership with local churches and thousands of volunteers, will participate in a town-to-town, home-to-home Scripture sharing program, bringing the Word of God to every man, woman and child.

"Good News, America!" will be launched by the American Bible Society on June 16, 1974, with the presentation and special distribution of a Good News pioneer Scripture Selection at Harrodsburg, Kentucky (Fort Harrod), America's first settlement west of the Alleghenies. This Good News settler Selection is illustrated with dramatic full color scenes of Kentucky, and features that state's bicentennial theme: "200 Years of Faith."

"Good News, America!" will be extended by the Society in October along the banks of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This will be a massive distribution of special Good News Scriptures designed to commemorate the trip made by a great religious pioneer and a founding father of the American Bible Society, Samuel Mills, more than a century and half ago, to assess the need for Scriptures among the new settlers in the Ohio and Mississippi river basins. Where Samuel Mills made his journey by barge and flatboat, the American Bible Society will concentrate on key riverside communities and cities such as Marietta, Ohio, and Parkersburg, West Virginia. Then on to Huntington, West Virginia; Portsmouth and Cincinnati, Ohio; Ashland, Covington, Louisville, Owensboro and Paducah, Kentucky; Evansville, Indiana; to Cairo, Illinois where the Ohio meets the Mississippi, and down the "Father of Waters" to Memphis, Tennessee; Greenville, Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi; and finally to Louisiana where the distribution points will be Baton Rouge and New Orleans, Mills' final Delta destination.

According to Dr. Holmgren, the purpose of "Good News, America!" will be a massive and prolonged effort to put the Scriptures in the hands of every man, woman and child in the nation—in a language each one can read and understand.

"It will truly be good news for America," he said, "when the Scriptures are in the hands of the new readers, the elderly, the children, migrant workers, the poor, the mentally and physically handicapped, as well as everyone who need a higher-than-human support in this age of anxiety."

SUMMARY OF MODERATOR'S MANNA SURVEY

The February 23, 1974 issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST contained a survey conducted by Moderator Paul Steiner in which he wished a consensus of opinion to certain questions. The bold face figures denote the number of responses received by him pertaining to those questions.

Bold Face numbers denote number of responses.

1. The Brethren Church is talking about
 - **337** A. Their problems.
 - **31** B. Their power.
 - **44** C. Their pocketbook.
2. The Brethren pastors are talking about
 - **311** A. Their problems.
 - **53** B. Their power.
 - **32** C. Their pocketbook.
3. The successful pastors you know are
 - **1** A. Lazy
 - **203** B. Work beyond their limit.
 - **217** C. Work to capacity.
4. The dying Churches are
 - **23** A. Without a pastor.
 - **129** B. Striving among themselves.
 - **260** C. Not willing to step out with the boldness of Christ.
5. Your Church pays
 - **139** A. Too little salary.
 - **10** B. Too much salary.
 - **265** C. Adequate salary.
6. Local Churches are
 - **84** A. Willing to share with others.
 - **120** B. Keep to themselves.
 - **116** C. Encourage a loving-free spirit among the Brotherhood.
7. Local Churches
 - **66** A. Feel a part of the District.
 - **77** B. Act as if the District does not exist.
 - **157** C. Encourage District unity and activity.
 - **1** other
8. District Conferences
 - **115** A. Feel a part of the Denomination.
 - **56** B. Act on their own wishes.
 - **30** C. Feel neglected by the Denomination.
 - **182** D. Encourage communication between the local Church and General Conference.
 - **1** other
9. Your Church believes
 - **65** A. Ashland controls the Church.
 - **74** B. They are small and of little value to the Greater Church.
 - **260** C. The General Conference does listen and speak to their needs.
10. Concerning General Conference: Would you prefer
 - **52** A. To have General Conference in another city, state or District each year.
 - **73** B. To hold General Conference in Ashland annually and every two or three years have a Spiritual Impact Conference (3 or 4 days with no business) in one of the larger Churches or Conference Center.
 - **101** C. Have General Conference in Ashland for three years then on the fourth have a Spiritual Impact Conference by invitation of Districts.
 - **4** other
11. Is Adult Christian Education in the Local Church
 - **44** A. Dying
 - **170** B. Exploring new topics.
 - **144** C. Remaining with Brethren International lessons.
 - **64** D. Content to be left alone and as is.
12. General Conference should spend more time
 - **16** A. In longer business sessions.
 - **127** B. In mixing up the program.
 - **78** C. In shorter business sessions.
 - **70** D. In small groups.
 - **9** Other
13. General Conference should
 - **72** A. Be shortened to Tuesday to Friday night.
 - **51** B. Begin on Sunday and conclude on Friday.
 - **195** C. Continue as being planned by Executive Committee.
 - **24** D. Other
14. What is the most exciting event in your parish
 - **109** A. Sunday Church School.
 - **255** B. Sunday Morning Worship.
 - **63** C. Bible Study.
 - **42** D. Youth Meetings.

30 E. Sunday Evening Worship.
4 other

15. What group is neglected in your Church
18 A. Children.
127 B. Youth (Specify: __Jr. High __High School __College Age).
125 C. Young married couples.
21 D. Middle age people.
53 E. Golden agers.
26 other

16. This attitude is of prime concern for the Brethren Church
11 A. Follow the records of historical events.
18 B. Follow the teachings of Alexander Mack.
380 C. Follow the teachings of the Holy scriptures.

17. The Brethren Church believes that
97 A. Biblical doctrines are a set pattern and can never be changed.
260 B. Biblical doctrines are open to new discoveries as they are tested through study.
17 C. Biblical doctrines are complete in the writings of C. F. Yoder's "God's Means of Grace."
2 other

18. The Brethren believe the Holy Scriptures are
307 A. God's inspired word.
10 B. Man's writings of God's plan.
2 C. Masterpiece of good literature.

19. The Brethren Church believes of prime consideration is the thought that
15 A. Alexander Mack established the true Church in 1708.
372 B. Jesus Christ established the true Church.
10 C. The Apostle Peter established the true Church.

20. The Brethren Church believes that
11 A. The Revised Standard Version is the most accurate text.
130 B. The King James is the official version of the Brethren Church.
225 C. All versions can be studied in the light of the Hebrew and Greek texts.
14 C. The New Living Bible is the most accurate text available.
2 other

21. Your Brethren Congregation believes that
16 A. Pastors should move every four years.
57 B. Pastors should never move unless asked by their Church.
355 C. Pastors should seek to move only when called by God.
2 D. Pastors should seek the bigger and better Churches.

22. The Brethren Church believes that
73 A. Congregations should not be larger than three hundred members.
75 B. Congregations should never grow large enough to employ two full-time ministers.
28 C. Congregations should remain small to retain purity.
68 D. Congregations should avoid openness because it brings about doctrinal change.
23 other

23. The Brethren Church is
146 A. Growing spiritually each year.
160 B. Slowly dying because there is a lack of lay commitment.
57 C. Progressing and will soon blossom.
5 D. There is no hope of growth.
3 other

24. The Brethren Church is
34 A. Adequately preparing sufficient men for the Brethren ministry.
235 B. In need of more concern from laity to encourage qualified men for the Brethren ministry.
145 C. In need of Pastors who will foster a desirable spirit and to encourage young men for the ministry.

25. The Brethren Church is
140 A. Adequately involved in world mission.
34 B. Poorly represented around the world.
132 C. Slow to open new mission fields because of the lack of financial support.
75 D. Slow to open new mission fields because we lack vision and men.

26. The Brethren Church needs
177 A. More Home Mission Churches.
5 B. Less Home Mission Churches.
182 C. To Study more carefully before they begin a new Home Mission venture.

27. The Brethren Church should
53 A. Leave Home Mission Churches to the leadership of the District Conference.
107 B. Have the approval and support of the National Mission Board before the work can begin.
46 C. Have less Home Mission Churches, but give greater support to get them out of debt and to call God's man and meet his financial needs.
133 D. Establish new Churches, call God's man, and pay the bill.
2 other

28. The Brethren Church should
33 A. Explore the possibility of merging with kindred Denominations.
87 B. Under no circumstances consider merging with another Denomination.
154 C. Explore the possibility of working and sharing in ventures of faith.
1 other

29. I am
122 A. Satisfied with Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary.
1 B. Satisfied with Ashland College but not satisfied with Ashland Theological Seminary.
130 C. Satisfied with Ashland Theological Seminary but not satisfied with Ashland College.
84 D. Not satisfied with either Ashland College or Ashland Theological Seminary.
2 other

(Question 30 is optional to all who wish to share with the 1974 Moderator.)

30. I want to make this personal expression regarding the Brethren Church as I see it. (Please limit your expression to no more than one page for the purpose of this survey. Thank you.)

Responses—39.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

"TO PRAY, TO PLAN . . . TO WORK TOGETHER"

by Arthur H. Matthews

Arthur H. Matthews is a journalist on the Billy Graham Team who worked on the congress staff as news editor.

Against a clear blue Swiss sky flags are flying and banners waving. It is "business as usual" again for the Palais de Beaulieu, Lausanne's conference and exhibit complex. The International Congress on World Evangelization which it housed in July has ended at the Palais, but many would say it has just started.

That confidence is based on the fact that participants are now back home in 150 nations with information, inspiration and determination they got while in Lausanne. If the hopes of congress planners are realized, they are already sharing their experiences and having a significant impact on their churches, organizations, and communities.

Altogether, about 4000 people attended the ten-day event, including over 2425 in the prime category of participants. The others were observers, guests, news media personnel, staff and stewards. The participants, carefully selected to represent a cross section of evangelical leadership, included laity as well as clergy, women (over 200 of them) as well as men, young people as well as their elders, and those involved in a wide spectrum of specialized ministries.

Those who were invited came as individuals and not as official representatives of any churches or para-church groups.* But among them were members—and leaders—of nearly every major denomination. Some also came from the growing indigenous communions in developing countries. All were influential Christians with an evangelical commitment.

From the beginning, the planning committee had affirmed its intention that this would be more than just another gathering of Christian tourists. It was to be "a process, not just an event," they said.

With the meeting over and only a skeleton staff left in Lausanne, the time has come to prove the committee's claim. As the congress adjourned, more than half of those who attended joined in the spirit of that assertion. Before they left Lausanne more than 2200 signed "The Lausanne Covenant," a document reflecting the major themes of the congress.

to preach the gospel to the poor

"In the light of this our faith and our resolve," they said in the document's concluding paragraph, "we enter into a solemn covenant with God and with each other, to pray, to plan and to work together for the evangelization of the whole world. We call upon others to join us."

Thus, they pledged not only to continue praying with and for each other, but also to plan and work together. It was an unprecedented and difficult step for many of them. Some had never before worked with people outside their own denominations or missionary societies. Some had never before worked outside their own home territories or outside their own language groups.

Lausanne changed all that. The "process," which started months before they came to the Swiss lakeside city, had broadened their visions. In the unique study opportunity they had prior to the meeting, they learned the major points of principal speakers. Participants' obligations to respond to the position papers caused them to give

the papers more than a casual reading. Hundreds of them "burned the midnight oil" to prepare their questions and comments. Some of the speakers received over 2000 written responses.

to heal the brokenhearted

Before leaving home for Lausanne many took a new look at the situation of Christianity in their own countries. For the first time in their ministries, some met with evangelicals from other traditions and with other areas of concern. They saw for the first time ways in which Christians in their own nation had unique opportunities to take the Gospel to other places. some had unprecedented meetings across racial lines during their congress preparation. Others had new experiences of working across the clergy-laity gap as they considered congress themes in advance.

Even the matter of money helped participants realize that they were involved in more than a fortnight's "vacation" trip. Some would never have left home just to travel to Switzerland. In countries such as India it would have been an impossibility for many to have raised the necessary funds. While contributions by Christians in other more affluent nations made it possible for their travel to be subsidized, every participant from India also made a contribution toward his own expenses. Sometimes that contribution was the equivalent of more than a month's salary. A woman in Africa, working outside the home to help provide college expenses for her three children, pledged most of a month's salary toward her fare. A missionary nurse in the Middle East, with meager support for her regular work, informed the congress staff that she would reimburse it for the costs involved in getting her to Lausanne. She did just that, with regular monthly cheques until the full amount was paid.

A large part of the budget of over US$ 3.2 million went toward scholarships to enable Christian leaders from less-affluent nations to attend. (The budget excludes travel, hospitality and other costs borne personally by non-subsidized participants. An audit of congress finances is expected to be available around the end of the year.) Fund raising efforts in the more-affluent countries enabled some churchmen there to gain a better picture of the economic situation of their brethren elsewhere.

Group travel was another important part of the "process" for many who attended. Long flights from the Far East, for example, provided Koreans with an opportunity to talk with Japanese and Chinese Christian leaders. A charter from Rio de Janeiro brought together participants from most South American countries several hours before they started meeting people from other parts of the world.

When they reached the meeting place overlooking Lake Geneva, many therefore were already very much aware of the thoughts and concerns of Christians in other lands. Hospitality arrangements in Lausanne provided early opportunities for international fellowship and information-sharing. Efforts were made to assure that participants from several nations shared accommodations and met daily in those housing areas for prayer. Noon and evening meals for the entire congress were served at the Palais, thus saving program time and affording more opportunity for cross cultural "table talk" about the meeting's themes.

The design of the program itself provided ample exposure to Christian opportunities around the world. While there was emphasis on evangelism in one's own neighbourhood, concentrated attention was given to Christ's command to go beyond "Jerusalem" to "all nations."

Evangelical leaders interested in the evangelization of farmers looked at their special areas of concern from a global viewpoint, for instance. African participants besieged an Asian specialist after his presentation on the subject. "No one has heard our cry from the farm villages," they said as they crowded around him to shake hands and thank him. Before they left Lausanne they had made specific plans to help each other win rural people to Christ.

The same kind of associations grew out of many of the other small meetings which were integral to the congress. Over half of the program time, in fact, was devoted to demonstrations of evangelistic methods, theological study groups, national strategy meetings, study groups on various types of evangelistic strategy or other small sessions.

The plenary sessions also gave participants a world view, with platform leaders coming from a rich variety of backgrounds. Daily devotional leaders were from different continents. Daily chairmen also came from widely-scattered places. Diverse forms of music and worship were featured. Younger Asian, African and Latin American speakers were often the center of attention and discussion.

to preach deliverance to the captives

Not only did those attending plenary sessions get some hard-hitting challenges from those they heard and saw (with special help from overhead visual amplification) in the Palais' main hall, but they also got some of their "marching orders" there. It was in a plenary session that "The Lausanne Covenant" was introduced in draft form, and participants' suggestions were solicited. After hundreds of them handed in their comments, the final document came back to a plenary meeting for signatures with a warning that it should be signed solemnly and only after serious consideration.

Those agreeing to the covenant confessed, for instance, "that we have often denied our calling and failed in our mission, by becoming conformed to the world or by withdrawing from it." They

took the strong position of affirming "the divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety as the only written word of God, without error in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice."

and recovering of sight to the blind

Equally strong positions were taken on other subjects, including cooperation in evangelism, the uniqueness and universality of Christ, Christian social responsibility, freedom and persecution, and the return of Christ.

During plenary sessions the participants also greeted with appreciation plans for a continuation committee to extend the work of the congress. Dividing into regional groups, they nominated evangelical leaders to represent their respective areas on the panel. The congress planning committee at its final meeting this October will name 25 of the regional representatives from among those nominated in Lausanne. Total membership of the continuing body will be 30, with the planning committee naming the remaining five to assure a cross section of evangelicals.

What will happen as a result of all this? Was it worth all the time and money?

Part of the answer will depend on the continuation committee when it is organized. Part will depend on how well the tapes, audio-visauls, follow-up booklets, the compendium and other educational tools are used. But the answer will depend mainly on congress participants themselves, and whether they put into practice in their own areas of influence what they experienced at Lausanne.

Much also will depend on whether those who attended the congress keep praying for the whole world instead of just their own little corners: whether they remember the spiritual needs of Switzerland, and Burundi, and Guatemala, and India. It was estimated that one million Christians around the world were praying specifically for the congress before it met. The number regularly interceding — and working together — for evangelization of the whole population of the earth could be multiplied many times as congress participants return to their own countries, denominations and organizations and share the vision.

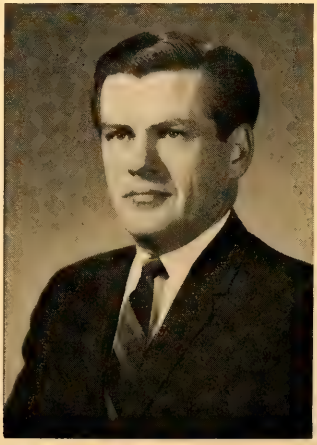
to set at liberty them that are bruised

The prayer chapel which had a unique place in the Palais has been dismantled, and its location has been put to other uses. For many who paused there to pray, this may be a good sign. That part of the church's leadership which gathered briefly in Lausanne is now scattered around the globe. They have returned home with prayers for their new fellowship, dedicated to pursuit of the theme, "Let the Earth Hear His Voice."

**Attending the International Congress on World Evangelization from The Brethren Church were Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham, General Secretary of The Missionary Board and Dr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Shultz. Dr. Shultz is Vice President, Ashland Theological Seminary.*



M. Virgil Ingraham



Joseph R. Shultz

FOUNDATIONAL HYMN TALKS



By Peter E. Roussaki
Minister of Music and Education
The Brethren Church
New Lebanon, Ohio

FOR MORNING WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways in which congregational singing in worship services may be enriched. I find the short devotional or informative HYMN TALK one of the most practical means. Hymn talks may be inserted quite naturally into the order of service. Immediately preceding the singing of a hymn the pastor, choir director, or song leader may provide a few minutes of hymn interpretation. He may also choose to interpret between stanzas. This technique seems to work better because the congregation is less likely to lose interest.

The four hymn talks in this series are called FOUNDATIONAL because they describe what this writer feels are the very basics of congregational or hymn singing. Clergy and laity alike can profit from a simple, yet clear understanding of the place of song in worship and other Christian settings. The talks may best be used at the beginning of a hymnic enrichment program. They are presented here basically as they were this spring in New Lebanon, each taking approximately six minutes, including singing.

PART II

PART II. **The Psalm**

Literally, a psalm is a poem sung to the accompaniment of musical instruments. The texts of the Psalms in the Old Testament most always involved a conversation by man **to God, with God,** or **about** God. There have been written a variety of Psalms: some of praise, some of grief, thanksgiving, and confession. Many Psalms are suited to congregational usage while others are more appropriately used in private devotions.

Some individuals in the past have attempted to classify the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs mentioned in Colossians 3:16 as three distinct **forms** of song. However, most biblical scholars today agree that the reference to the psalms means nothing more than those psalms written in the time of King David; those psalms which have become a part of Scripture. Psalms, as such, were no longer being written in the days of the early church. Therefore, we can assume that the Psalms of the Israelite worship became a significant body of worship and devotion material for the early Christians as they chanted Psalms.

Later in the history of the church, around the Reformation era of the 1500's, some groups not only chanted the Psalms, but also began **metricizing** the words, perhaps even changed a few, to be suitable metrically for singing to a specific tune. Turn in the church hymnal to No. 119, "All People that on Earth Do Dwell." This is one of the few metricized Psalms, with its original tune, that is in common use today. Both the metrical form of the Psalm, Psalm 100, and its corresponding Psalm tune, were written in the 1500's.

You'll notice the tune name is **Old 100th.** Naming the Psalm tune by its Psalm number was a common practice. Also common practice was singing without accompaniment. As we sing this metricized Psalm the choir will sing the first stanza in unison followed by congregation and choir together in unison on the second and third stanzas; on the fourth stanza the choir will sing in four-part harmony with the congregation singing in unison.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: ADVANCE OR RETREAT?



by Billy Graham

Kenneth Scott Latourette and other historians have called the 19th century the "great century of missionary advance." What will the 20th century be? We are almost in its last quarter.

Times are radically different now. The means of transportation and communication are greatly improved. The ecclesiastical picture is significantly different. The world's population has multiplied many times.

Most of all, the theological situation is quite different. In the 19th century, there was little disagreement among those involved in evangelism and missions. They had a strong view of Scripture. Christians believed in the necessity of preaching the unique gospel of Christ to a lost world, trusting the Holy Spirit to bring about personal regeneration.

Making Jesus known to the world was first. It had top priority. One of the consequences, but not the goal, of evangelism was political and social reconstruction.

This was the situation when the 20th century dawned. There was a great international conference in New York in 1900 which personified this biblical position. At that congress the prominent leaders were Robert E. Speer and John R. Mott. They are often claimed to be among the fathers of the modern ecumenical movement.

By the time of the Edinburgh conference of 1910 a theological change had subtly infiltrated some key educational and youth movements. That great world missionary conference at Edinburgh was truly historic because it did focus attention on missionary activity. It was also historic because many of those attending it accepted a weakened view of the Bible. This was unprecedented at an important international meeting of Christian leaders. The conference also failed to deal in depth with the theology of evangelism.

By the middle of the century, the gospel of personal redemption had become diluted. The church found itself in turmoil and often impotent. Old theological terms were redefined to take on nonbiblical meanings.

But, despite man's vagaries, God has been faithful. He has brought awakening to many parts of His church. There is a great renewal today in scattered regions of the world. The evangelical position is stronger now than in many years. We are living at a moment in history when evangelical Christians have a unique opportunity, a unique stewardship.

As we face these days, we must be alert to danger from two sources. Evangelism has always encountered these dangers. The first is from external sources. Widespread evangelistic efforts are still not possible in many places because of political, cultural, and even religious hostility.

The second, and I believe more important, threat is from internal sources. No matter how zealous or dedicated, the Christian community is always in danger of having the vital nerve of evangelism cut from within. It can take place, for example, when Christians are conformed more and more to the ease of this world, and they lose the urgency of the gospel message. It also happens when they become diverted into secondary issues and thus become preoccupied with things other than evangelism.

For too long, de facto leadership of too much of the missionary movement has been in the hands of those with diluted theological views. Since 1928 its leaders have been searching for something to replace the biblical position on evangelism and missions.

In ecclesiastical circles, there has been a steady trend toward universalism. This has hurt the churches in their evangelistic task at home as well as in their "foreign missions" work. It is little wonder that a few years ago Bishop Lesslie Newbigin said, "The sense of direction, the feeling of urgency, and the depth of conviction which underlay the slogan, 'the evangelization of the world

in this generation', are not present today in anything like the same measure in most of the bodies represented in the World Council of Churches as they were 60 years ago. Throughout the world church there is now confusion, uncertainty and hesitation."

Evangelicals need not be confused, uncertain or hesitant about the task of evangelization. While the world has certainly changed in 75 years, God has not. The gospel has not changed. The Word of God stands forever. Christ never changes. The power of the Spirit to transform lives never changes. The commission from our Lord to go and preach the gospel to every creature still stands. And Christ's promise that He is with us to the end of the age never changes.

Now is the time for evangelicals to move ahead and provide a leadership that has been so sorely missed by Christians around the world. There is a desperate need for the changeless gospel to be related to the changing world. The hour is late.

The Lausanne Congress can provide the challenge which can bring evangelicals of all denominations to a new obedience that would result in worldwide evangelization. It is my prayer that this meeting will have such a spirit, such a fellowship, such a clear stand on the gospel imperative that it will lead to the evangelization of every person on earth before the end of this century.

"SIX MISCHIEVOUS MISSES"

Six young ladies are the cause of most difficulties. Individuals fall into all kinds of trouble because of them. So do families, neighborhoods, churches, nations, and businesses. Do you know their names? Surely you have met them—not once, but many times.

The first is **Miss Understanding.** We thought we understood what was expected, or what was meant, but we didn't. So we got in trouble.

Next is **Miss Information.** The facts got snarled, and we tripped and fell.

Miss Interpretation is the third culprit. We took information out of its context, and misread it, and missed the point altogether.

A fourth cause of trouble is **Miss Representation.** Unfortunately, this is often done deliberately, so we really have no one to blame but ourselves.

Fifth is **Miss Conception.** Again the problem is one of insight. Values and directions become distorted. The picture is hazy and out of focus.

Last is **Miss Behaviour.** We know what was right, but our actions did not match our conscience or our ideals. At this point we often blame others, because pride prevents us from acknowledging we could ever make a mistake or do wrong.

Having trouble around your place? Look for six **Misses.** Any of them can snatch the rug out from under you. All six can tear the whole house down!

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THE BOUNDS OF EARTH

Dr. Doerr is Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of West Florida, Pensacola. This article was taken from a speech delivered by the noted educator to the Pensacola Home Builders Association, Pensacola, Florida.

by Arthur H. Doerr

The world's population is currently about 3,800,000,000 people. The net increase per day is about 200,000, which means, of course, that the annual growth in the world's population is more than 70,000,000 persons. The current annual growth rate of the world's population hovers around 2 percent. At this rate the world's population will double in 35 years. In underdeveloped countries the growth rate is as high as 3.5 percent per year. The population doubling time for such countries is 20 years. The specter of a rapidly rising world population haunts governments, planners, and economists because of the obvious impact upon available resources and the environment.

Where do the United States and Americans stand in the world picture? Our growth rate has slowed, and current birth rates place us near that zero population growth level advocated by many.

Suppose the world population was compressed into a single city of 1000 people. In this imaginary city 55 of the 1000 people would be American citizens, and 945 would represent all other nations. Of this 945 people, 215 would be citizens of the People's Republic of China. The 55 United States citizens would receive more than 40 percent of the town's income. These 55 people, representing 5½ percent of the population would consume almost 15 percent of the town's food supply; use, on a per capita basis, 10 times as much oil, 40 times as much steel and 40 times as much general equipment.

Among the 1000 people in the town, less than 300 would be Christian, and more than 700 would have some other religion or no religion at all. Of the population about 300 would be white and 700 non-white. The 55 Americans and their European counterparts would have a life expectancy of 70 years compared to 45 years for the other citizens of the town.

And, although most of the citizens of the world have accepted their lot, this has ceased to be so. This has become an era of rising expectation of the world's peoples. Everyone seeks his share of the "good life."

Central to any consideration of a good life is an adequate, available, and dependable food supply. Two thirds of the world's peoples are currently undernourished or malnourished. And, although the "Green Revolution" has been pointed to by some as a solution to the world's hunger, it should be recognized that greatly improved yields add demands for irrigation and fertilizer which causes a host of environmental and energy problems.

Further, it should be recognized that the mere satisfaction of caloric needs will not satisfy the omnipresent protein hunger. Terrestrial sources from such countries as the United States are limited as exhibited in numerous ways, including meat shortages here.

Many have pointed to the sea as a bountiful new source of protein. It should be recognized, however, that although the world fish catch tripled from 1950 to 1968, that, beginning with 1969, there has been no additional expansion of the catch (in fact there has been a modest decline) in spite of greatly increased efforts and costs. Overfishing has resulted in destruction of many of the world's most productive fishing grounds, and some biologists fear that we are on the brink of causing Catastrophic declines in the catch of certain species.

If we are to preserve the sea as a major source of food, if we are to expand the extraction of minerals from ocean waters, the lands beneath the seas, and the sea floors; and if we are to

manage carefully the dumping of wastes in the sea; we must have international cooperation in the use of the seas. Just as nations have always recognized the right of transit on the open seas so must the sea's resources be husbanded for all of mankind.

And, as men must have food so he must have energy. In the 19th and 20th centuries civilization has been dependant upon the use of fossil fuels. Best estimates suggest that with current recovery techniques and projected demands that the world's coal supplies will last to about the year 3000, its oil to about 2050, and its natural gas to about 2025. And, although atomic reactors are pointed to as a solution to the power problem, it is expected that fissionable materials will last to about the year 2000.

Obviously other sources of power are available for expansion or development. Those are not recounted here, but stress should be laid on the expansion of energy sources consonant with the maintenance of environmental quality. It is a reasonable prediction, however, that the days of cheap, abundant energy availability are over forever. Energy may again become abundant, but at a price.

In our concern for energy we must not neglect environmental quality. Indeed the ecological consciousness which has become widespread is a salutary phenomenon which must be nurtured and preserved.

Basically we must come to grips with the fact that resources are finite and that conservation is an inevitable answer to the world's principal dilemmas. The ethnic of conservation has two fundamental commandments, i.e.;

1) **Thou shalt maintain energy flow.**
2) **Thou shalt not sacrifice the eternal or the continuing to the temporal or the expedient.**



Each of us must recognize within that framework of conservation the ecological law that within any dynamic structure a change in any variable will change all variables dependent upon it as well as all variables dependent on the affected variables. In our development of the affluent society, the age of creature comforts, and the growth syndrome we Americans have become the greatest modifers of the environment in the history of the world.

Some examples of resource use and environmental impact are seen in the following statements.

1. We are currently destroying agriculture land at the rate of 1,000,000 acrees per year.
2. We discard, use, or discharge into the environment each year:
 a. 48,000,000,000 cans
 b. 26,000,000,000 bottles
 c. 142,000,000 tons of smoke
 d. 61,000,000 tons of carbon monoxide
 e. 16,000,000 tons of hydrocarbon gases
 f. 7,000,000 junked automobiles
 g. 6,000,000 tons of nitrogen oxide
 h. 210,000 tons of lead

We use each day 4 gallons of oil, 300 cubic feet of natural gas, 15 pounds of coal, and smaller amounts of energy from other sources per person—eight times the world average.

Environmental impact or technological prospects are succinctly and humorously set forth in the two anonymous poems which follow:

A Conservationist's Lament

The world is finite, resources scarce
Things are bad and will get worse.
Coal is burned and gas exploded,
Forests cut and soils eroded.
Wells are dry, and air's polluted
Dust is blowing, trees uprooted
Oil is going, ores depleted
Drains receive what is excreted
Land is sinking, seas are rising—
Man is far too enterprising.
Fire will rage with man to fan it
Soon we'll have a plundered planet.
People will breed like fertile rabbits
People have disgusting habits.

Moral

The evolutionary plan
Went astray by evolving man.

The Technologist's Reply

Man's potential is quite terrific;
You can't go back to the Neolithic.
The cream is here for us to skim it—
Knowledge is power, the sky's the limit.
Every mouth has hands to feed it,
Food is found where people need it.
All we need is found in granite
Once we have the men to plan it.
Yeast and algae give us meat
Soil is almost obsolete
Man can grow to pastures greener
Till all the earth is Pasadena.

Moral

Man's a nuisance, man's a crackpot,
But only man can hit the jackpot.

Fundamental to all our thinking must be the sobering fact that we are on this fragile planet alone. There are no other intelligent living crea-

tures in our solar system. We share the air, the water, the resources, and the energy with our fellow human beings and living creatures on this planet—alone.

As John Donne put it, "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Perhaps at last at this time if we **really** realize the dimensions of our problems; if we **really** care about this country and the world's peoples; if we **really** act responsibly we can avoid the events described in Carl Sandburg's "Four Preludes on Playthings of the Wind."

The doors were cedar and the panels strips
of gold,
And the girls were golden girls
And the girls chanted:
We are the greatest city, the
greatest nation:
Nothing like us ever was.
The doors are twisted on broken hinges
Sheets of rain swish through on the wind
Where the golden girls ran and the
panels read:
We are the greatest city, the
greatest nation:
Nothing like us ever was.
It has happened before
Strong men put up a city and got a
nation together
And paid singers to sing and women
to warble:
We are the greatest city, the
greatest nation:
Nothing like us ever was.

We, citizens of the United States of America and members of the world community, face a crisis of unparalleled proportions. We can wring our hands and sink into a miasma of despair, or we can recognize that a crisis is a threatening opportunity.

I recommend, therefore, that we initiate a national program with temporal priorities, with a level of funding, and a measure of commitment comparable to the **Manhattan Project** which led to the production of the atomic bomb in World War II or to the **Apollo Project** which culminated in a space adventure bringing Neil Armstrong's words from the surface of the moon, "That's one small step for a man—one giant leap for mankind." To repeat, a project with the broadest possible authority, coordinated with comparable national projects elsewhere, and merged into an international undertaking with all the world's peoples contributing, should be undertaken now to assure world economic opportunity, to provide adequate energy resources, and to conserve the world environment. **Project Independence,** outlined by President Nixon, is in my judgment too restricted and xenophobic in character to meet the challenge to all the world's peoples.

I recommend, therefore, that national projects merge into international programs addressing economy, energy, and environment be initiated at once. I believe national and international support could be rallied around **Project Triple E.**

In my judgment, we owe our Creator, fellowmen, nation, state, and community one last adventurous try to save the world and to provide for the posterity of all man, in the words of Christ, "I am come that you might have life and that you might have it more abundantly." Surely now is a time for selflessness rather than selfishness; a time for co-operative action rather than individual self gratification; a time for real rededication to Judeao-Christian principles in all their ramifications.

In closing I respectfully request that each of us consider two pieces of advice from the Bible:

He who heeds the wind will not sow; and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

Where there is no vision the people perish.

Vanishing America?





CHURCH NEWS

Skipping here and there

The following article was written by Bill Curry and taken from the August 21st edition of the Waynesboro Record-Herald. The young civic-minded Geoffry Miller along with his mother, brother and grandparents are members of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Perhaps this article may be classed as a reversal of the usual pattern of parents being examples to their children. (Editor's note)

If Mr. Average Citizen had learned his civics lessons while in school as well as 13-year-old Geoffrey N. Miller has, the politicians would obtain a better view of what the public is worrying about today.

Geoffrey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Miller Jr., Gehr Road. He is in the eighth grade in Waynesboro.

The young man has been busy all summer working with his father on the family cattle spread. "He's a real worker," his father told me.

He demonstrated his knowledge of civics early this summer by writing a letter to members of the Congress—two senators and a representative. (He wanted to get the word to as many of the brass in Washington as possible, it appears.)

Geoffrey had heard his parents discussing the decline in cattle prices and what it meant to the Millers—a sharp drop in income. "I'm going upstairs and write to Washington and tell them about this situation," he said to his parents.

And he proceeded to do just that.

The results were a surprise to all. A short time after he mailed his complaint, he received an invitation to appear before the House Sub-Committee on Agriculture which was holding hearings on cattle prices. He read his letter and made an appeal for action that would correct the serious problems facing cattlemen all our the country.

The Waynesboro lad received the thanks of the representatives and they promised to consider his suggestions.

He was accompanied to the hearing in Washington by his parents and an uncle, Norman G. Miller of Annandale, VA. The group met with Rep. E. G. "Bud" Shuster, Ninth Congressional District, in his office following the young man's initiation into the world of politics at an early age.

Persons of voting age can profit from the example established by Geoffrey Miller. Unlike so many American adults today who are content to complain about how our representatives in Washington are handling matters to one another, he made his discontent known to those responsible for correcting faults—the lawmakers themselves.

"A fine letter," one of the congressmen told Geoffrey after he had appeared before the panel. I might add that not only was it a fine letter, but its author is the kind of citizen this country needs so badly today.



Mrs. Otto (Maria) Schultz will be the guest speaker at the County Line Brethren Church the evening of October 6, 1974 at 7:30 P.M.

Mrs. Schultz was the speaker at the W.M.S. Inspirational Service of the Indiana District Conference of Brethren Churches and presented her personal testimony about life under Communist rule and in Hitler's regime before she escaped to West Germany and then to the United States in 1956.

An invitation is extended to the Brethren to attend this service. The County Line Brethren Church is located on Highway 31 between LaPaz and Lakeville, Indiana. (Across from LaVille School.)

World Religious News in Review

ASIAN CENTER OPENS, CARL HENRY FIRST GUEST LECTURER

SEOUL, Korea (EP)—Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, American theologian and author, was the first guest lecturer May 1-13 when the newly-formed Asian Center for Theological Studies and Mission opened here for its May 1 to July 4 term. The international, interdenominational graduate school for advanced theological studies has a faculty of six supplemented by four guest lecturers during the open term.

Director of the Korean venture is Dr. Samuel H. Moffett, son of the Presbyterian pioneers who led the breakthrough of Christianity in Korea early in this century, and who was a classmate of Henry's in Wheaton College days.

Dr. Henry, lecturer-at-large for World Vision, Inc., also lectured for six weeks at the Evangelism International School for Asian leaders in Singapore May 22 - June 25, before participating in the Lausanne, Switzerland, Congress on World Evangelization by presenting a group paper on evangelism and personal and social ethics.

'STREAKING' REACHES THE EAST —TOUGH PENALTIES ADVOCATED

COCHIN, India (EP)—The West's "streaking" craze has hit the East.

Four young male law students, believed to be India's first naked short-distance runners, recently dashed through the busy downtown district of this coastal city in Kerala State.

Unlike most of their Western counterparts, however, the four Indian streakers—students at Cochin's Law College—wore neither face masks nor sneakers.

Reaction to the episode was prompt. An "anti-streaking" association was immediately formed in Cochin.

One of its proposals: public flogging and exhibiting of streakers—in the nude—"until they feel so shy and embarrassed" that they will not engage in such "unseemly" activity again.

PROTESTANT CLERGY INCREASING, CATHOLIC DECLINING

NEW YORK (EP)—Opposite trends in numbers of clergymen are occuring between Protestants and Roman Catholics, the former swelling its ranks, the latter growing fewer.

Many Protestant ministers can't find churches, while the shortage of priests means some have to serve several churches.

A report in the New York Times said reform upheaval within the Catholic church has created the shortage of priests and that finances were responsible for providing training for more Protestant ministers.

C&MA BECOMES A DENOMINATION

ATLANTA (EP)—The Christian and Missionary Alliance, founded as a missionary society in 1887, has voted to establish itself as a full-fledged Protestant denomination.

A total of 834 members of the Alliance's general council, gathered at the First Baptist Church here, voted for the measure, 98 were opposed.

Founded by A. B. Simpson, the Alliance has had only four presidents in 87 years. The new constitution allegedly gives C&MA President Nathan Bailey of New York greater authority and responsibility for directing the group than presidents had in the past.

Congregations formerly called "branches" will now be known as "churches." The 100,000 members and 70,000 "adherents" will donate an estimated $9 million to finance missionary this year. The Alliance currently has 1,000 missionaries on foreign fields, approximately one for every 105 members.

'THE BEAST AMONG US' (TELEVISION) GREATER INFLUENCE THAN RELIGION

DALLAS (EP)—A Southern Baptist radio and television official said here he agrees with a recent report which held that television is possibly the most powerful social force in American culture today.

Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, referred to a survey in U.S. News and World Report showing that television ranks first—and organized religion 18th—among influences on daily living.

"I don't know how accurate the survey is about the influence of organized religion," he told a Commission-sponsored fund raising banquet here.

But the survey's rating for TV is probably accurate, he said. "This beast that is among us (television) is perhaps the most important influence on our lives today."

CONVICT LET OUT OF JAIL TO PREACH

MILAN, Mich. (EP)—Many jailhouse conversions are about as sincere as a mimeographed love letter, but such is not the case with John McClish.

The warden of the Federal Correctional Institution here, some 10 miles south of Ann Arbor, regularly lets inmate John McClish out of jail with a guard escort to play his trumpet and to preach.

"God saved me from the rotten lust of the world and set me on a rock," he told his audience at the Calvary Baptist Church in Dundee. "But there is more to Christianity than being saved. Jesus wants to use us. When you wake up in the morning, your first thought should be: 'What can I do for God?' "

TEXAS BLACKS FIGHT GAMBLING

DALLAS (EP)—Leaders of four Black Texas Baptist groups have issued a joint letter urging defeat of the May 4 referendum on legalized gambling.

The four groups represent more than 1,500 churches with more than a half million members.

The presidents of the four groups issuing the statement are Dr. M.L. Price of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas; Dr. P.S. Wilkinson of the American Baptist Convention of Texas, the Rev. Caesar Clark of the Baptist Missionary and Education State Convention, and the Rev. T.E. George, Jr. of the Texas Baptist State Convention.

In the statement—which was mailed to each of the congregations affiliated with the conventions—the pastors said:

"We call upon every black pastor to join us in this statement and lead our people to vote against the referendum on legalized gambling.

"It is those who can least afford to gamble who would be the biggest losers in any system of state-approved gambling. We care about people and know that those who are trapped in a cycle of poverty are the very persons who would most easily be victimized by the lure of 'something for nothing.' "

TENS OF MILLIONS IMPERILED BY FOOD CRISIS, U.N. TOLD

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (EP)—"Tens of millions of human lives are suspended in the delicate balance between world population and food supplies," according to a Declaration presented to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim by a group of prominent persons representing more than 1,000 public leaders from nearly 100 countries.

British author and scientist C.P. Snow read the Declaration in a special ceremony at the U.N. The Declaration calls on governments, organizations and men and women everywhere to:

—Give high priority to programs which will increase the productions of grains and other food staples.

—Encourage sound population policies relevant to national needs.

—Recognize the interdependence of the world community and the obligation of the developed and developing countries to cooperate.

—Establish sufficient food reserves, now sorely lacking.

—Recognize that world resources are finite and that birth rates must eventually be brought into reasonable balance with lowered death rates.

The Declaration was signed by 19 members of the U.S. Senate and 32 members of the House of Representatives.

ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS IN L.A. TO MARK 25th YEAR OF BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADES

LOS ANGELES (EP)—Evangelist Billy Graham will return to this city Sept. 19-21 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his international ministry launched here in 1949 with widespread press coverage during his historic Washington and Hill Streets tent campaign.

The three-day series of meetings, sponsored by area ministers in cooperation with Christianity Today magazine, will be held in the Hollywood Bowl, with closed-circuit TV relays to area meetings where people will be gathered. Proceeds of the meetings will be used to help alleviate human suffering.

At a press conference in his offices, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn introduced Mr. Graham and announced he had proclaimed April 29 as "Billy Graham Day" throughout the county.

The tanned evangelist, looking dapper in a dark blue suit, reminisced about the 1949 "campaign" which was extended from two weeks to eight.

"Someone informed me on the night we found the place swarming with newspaper reporters that 'You have just been kissed by William Randolph Hearst,' " Mr. Graham recalled.

The noted newspaper publisher had attended the crusade incognito and afterward issued a memo to his employees that read, "Puff Graham." The dramatic local coverage soon spread nationwide and then to the world.

The man who has personally addressed more than 50 million people, said he preaches the same gospel today that he preached in 1949.

He said he was participating in the National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer, observed by Christians April 30 as initiated by a Senate resolution drafted by Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon.

A resident of Montreat, N.C., Mr. Graham expressed alarm at the high divorce rate in California (one out of two marriages) and observed that "we are seeing an assult on the home and on marriage."

Comparing today with 1949, he said society is more permissive. But he cited vigorous activities of Christians on campuses during the "quiet 70s," and opined that people today are looking most of integrity . . . "even in all the little things of our lives."

Mr. Graham said today's situation in America compares with that of Germany before the Nazi regime—a society rocked by inflation, deep cleavage between left and right political groups, demonstrations and lawlessness. But the evangelist was optimistic. "There are hundreds of thousands of Christians meeting for Bible study in homes all across America," he said. "That wasn't the case 25 years ago."

Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, pastor of Hollywood's First Presbyterian Church, is chairman of the September Hollywood Bowl celebration. Entertainment and leadership communities of Los Angeles also plan to honor Mr. Graham this fall.

CHEEP ADVICE



DO more than exist—LIVE!
DO more than touch—FEEL!
DO more than look—OBSERVE!
DO more than read—ABSORB!
DO more than hear—LISTEN!
DO more than listen—UNDERSTAND!
DO more than think—PONDER!
DO MORE THAN TALK—SAY SOMETHING!

from South Bend Newsletter

"The eagle on the dollar never soars so high as when on a mission for the Lord!"

from Washington Lamplighter

No matter what happens, there's always someone who knew it would.

A wise papa overhead his big son praying, and interrupted him: "Son, don't bother to give God instructions. Just report for duty."

from Mexico Companero

Some people change their ways when they see the light; others only when they feel the heat.

A man suffering from insomnia asked a friend how he managed to sleep so well every night. "Do you count sheep?" he inquired. "No," replied the friend, "I talk to the Shepherd!"

from The Evangel

LAFF-A-LITTLE

Upon seeing the same pupil again, the annoyed principal said: "This is the fifth time you have been punished this week. What do you have to say for yourself?"

"I'm glad it's Friday," was the quick retort.

"Looks like a bad storm coming up," said the hostess. "You'd better stay for dinner."

"Oh, thanks," said the guest absently, "but I don't think it will be that bad."

"Of course two can live as cheaply as one," said a father to a friend. "My wife and I live as cheaply as our daughter at the university."

"These shirts are made of very strong material," said the salesman. "They just laugh at the laundry."

"I know," replied the customer. "Some of mine came back with their sides split."

Husband: You're terribly extravagant. If anything should happen to me, you would probably have to beg.

Wife: I'd get by; look at all the experience I've had.

A stranger approached a farmer, produced his card and remarked: I am a government inspector and I'm entitled to inspect your farm."

Moments later the farmer heard screams from behind the barn. The inspector was being chased by a bull. Leaning over the fence as the madly-running inspector drew near, the farmer cried out. "Show him your card, mister, show him your card!"

A school boy brought home a report card heavy with poor grades.

What have you to say about this?" asked his father.

"One thing for sure," the boy replied. "You know I'm not cheating."

SUNDAY SHOPPER

"In an aimless, futile search
She shops around from church to church.
As if inspecting merchandise
She tries the sermon on for size,
And says, 'My but it's difficult to find
Exactly what I have in mind;
I'd like something that has a flair—
Not just an every-day affair.
This model doesn't flatter me,
It's too strait-laced and snug, you see.
I'm simply not the type for it
Though I know plenty it would fit.
It's last year's style, and anyway—
It's more than I had planned to pay.'
Again she leaves to join the ranks
Of those who are, 'Just looking, Thanks.' "

Wayne Heights Highlights

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1975 CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE 1975

Theme: "Church Growth"

Study book: The Master Plan Of Evangelism
by Robert E. Coleman

This is a study of the Master's work with His disciples from the four gospels.

This book is on the bibliography of Arden Gilmer's Laymen Alive training program.

Cost: textbook—$1.50 study guide—$1.00 available from the Brethren Publishing Co.

Time: Each local church study this book between January 12 and March 16. These early dates are suggested because Easter falls on March 30, 1975.

Other books for reference:

How To Grow A Church—
Donald McGavran & Win Arn

Hope For Your Church—Harold L. Fickett Jr.

Watch the Brethren Evangelist for more information and guidelines for local study.

Eugene Beekley
Ralph Gibson
William Brady
Alvin Grumbling, ch.

Ashland Theological Seminary
910 Center
Ashland, Ohio 44805





"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

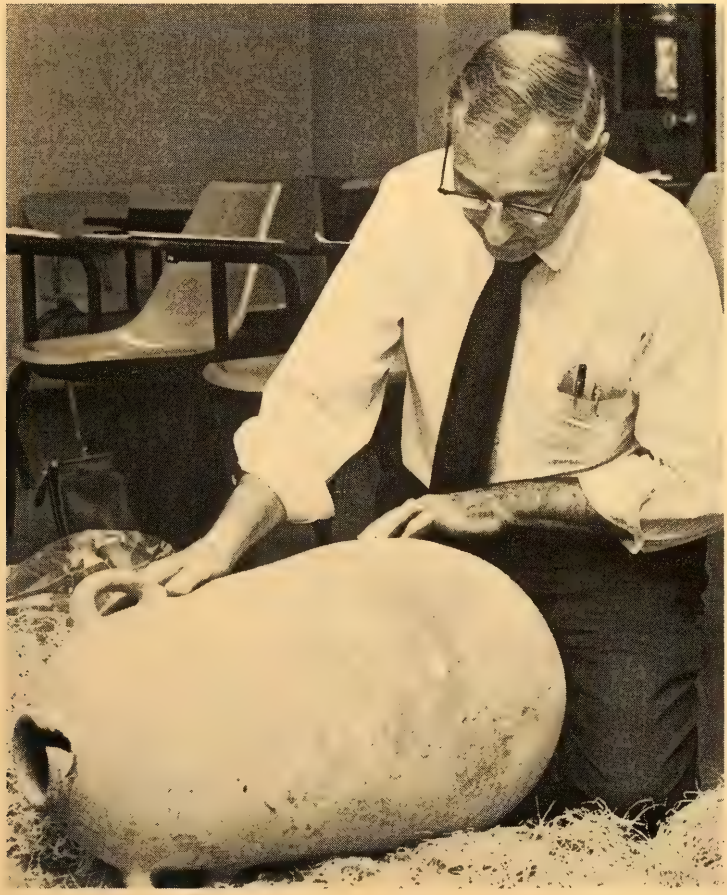
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The Brethren
EVANGELIST



ACTION HERE **ACTION THERE**
ACTION EVERYWHERE

(See Pages 15-18)

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EVANGELIST

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NOTES and COMMENTS

A THANK-YOU NOTE

from Julia Flora

For three years our family lived in a black community in Louisville, Kentucky. Our neighbors there were kind to us, and we had some very good experiences with them. We visited each other many times in our homes and in our churches. We enjoyed worshiping our same Lord together with them.

One of the ladies at my neighbor's church said to me, "You know, we're all going to be together in heaven." Yes, truly we are. Jesus said our prayer should be: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done **in earth,** as it is in heaven." So it is very good for us to fellowship together here and now.

At my invitation a neighbor, Mrs. White, and another friend, Mrs. Coleman, came to stay with us for a while during our General Conference this year. We were all happy to hear the black evangelist, Dr. Howard Jones, for the first time. The ladies met many of our Brethren friends and seemed to enjoy themselves very much.

Since Conference we have received thank-you notes from each one, and I would like to share with you some of what they wrote. Mrs. White said she had "a wonderful time. I do not have the words to express my thanks." And Mrs. Coleman wrote, "It was a glorious experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed the Conference, each phase of it. And everyone was so friendly. But of course, this is as it should be."

So this is my way of saying thank you to all of you at Conference who went out of your way to welcome these Christian friends. You lived up to your name of Brethren.

By the Way

THAT WAS YESTERDAY

There have been so many things happen to our society recently that just do not want to become history. It seems that they just keep coming out of the woodwork and stir up our emotions to no end and also, the stirring does not get the problem solved or settle anything.

This brings to mind another "Little Lesson in Spiritual EFFIECIENCY" by Roy L. Smith which was published in The Christian ADVOCATE in 1945. (Ed. note)

The late Bishop Samuel Fallows returned to his home one night, a few years before his death, completely discouraged. The meeting with his board had been a stormy one in which his laymen vetoed one after another of his favorite projects. Not only so, but even some harsh things were said to the kindly man who had given so prodigally of his life and strength to the Church.

As the aging churchman entered his house, letting himself in with the night key, he was met by Mrs. Fallows, who somehow sensed the situation without having it described to her. Then, contrary to all his custom, the bishop gently refused his usual cup of hot milk, and went almost directly to his room, there to roll and toss for an hour or more before sleep came with blessed relief.

Suffering with her husband, Mrs. Fallows likewise found it difficult to sleep, and very early the next morning she crept out of bed, made herself ready, and tiptoed down to her husband's room. She had expected to urge him to stay in bed a little longer, on the promise that she would bring his breakfast up to him. Imagine her surprise, therefore, when she heard him pulling at the weights of his ancient exercise machine, and singing the while:

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing thy praise.

"Why, Samuel!" the good woman exclaimed, in surprise.

"Why what?" he queried in reply, without missing a beat in the rhythm of his morning exercise.

"Why, that board meeting last night. I thought you would stay in bed this morning, and try, at least, to get a bit of rest."

"That board meeting?" he asked, coming to a halt. "What about it?"

"Why, it must have been terrible! You came home utterly spent and discouraged."

"Oh," said the bishop, resuming his exercising again. "That was yesterday."

Most of us make the mistake of carrying yesterday's burdens over into today. We refuse to abandon the disagreeable things that happen to us, even when a night's sleep intervenes. With infinite care we disinter the horrid memories and relive our battles. We regale our minds with the resurrections of all things disagreeable, with the result that the day is mortgaged to yesterday before it is fairly started. Thus we insure ourselves new burdens and increased difficulties during the hours that lie ahead. They may even stay with us longer than that.

Any person who hopes to make a success of today must allow his yesterdays to bury their own dead. We sin against our own peace of mind if we go back to dig up the disagreeable and the morbid.

Any of us may find that sleep is God's healer, if we will but give it a chance to work its blessed ministry. As we waken in the morning, let us open our eyes to the sunrise of the new day, assuring ourselves that we are beginning again.

There is a sense in which it may be said that every awakening is a resurrection by which we enter into a new world. Each new day presents its problems and contains its own difficulties. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." To crowd any day with the ills, shames, defeats, and regrets of yesterday is to miss the joy of the new beginning that God has planned for each of us.

To every man is offered the promise of forgiveness. Those who accept their privilege through the grace of God are bidden to leave their yesterdays, with all their bitter regrets, behind. Today we are to begin again.

(" Little Lessons In Spiritual Efficiency" by Roy L. Smith. Used by permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.)

MISSIONARY NEWS

A MISSIONARY VACATION

by Mrs. Eugene (Peggy) Beekley

As in so many things in my life, a series of circumstances with God's hand gently guiding and directing, led to my spending five weeks in Medellin, Colombia, South America, with our missionaries, Ken and Jeanette Solomon and their four children.

It hasn't been a week yet since my return, and to tell you the truth, I haven't really come down to earth yet. I'm still even dreaming in Spanish, which is a special feat since my Spanish isn't that good! But it was such a special blessing for me and this mission field looks so encouraging, that I just want to tell everyone I talk to about the work there, and hope that they, too, might have some of the special blessings that were mine this summer.

I can't say that my personal witnessing and testimony led people to Christ while I was there. I wish I could, but my Spanish (or lack of it) prevented this. But I could tell people why I was willing to spend my vacation time and money to go to Medellin to help their children in the area of remedial reading—that it was because of Christ's love for me, that I wanted to use my efforts to help them. In this, God wonderfully blessed me. It was my privilege to work with nine children in a three weeks intensive course while they were having a mid-term five week break from school. I had one group of five students (including two Japanese!), one group of two, and two that I met individually. In addition to this, I held a workshop for interested teachers from the American School, and also a parents meeting to explain the work that was accomplished with the children. Success stories after they returned to regular school were more than enough to compensate for my efforts.

Before I left for South America, I had seen slides that the Missionary Board prepared after their initial search for a new mission field in Colombia. Let me hasten to say "Amen!" to the field that they were led to select. Medellin just has to be one of the prettiest places on God's green earth. While there I heard a number of phrases ascribed to Medellin—"The city of the red tile roofs," "The Orchid capital of the world," but the one that really touched me was "The City of Eternal Spring," and Medellin is just that! It's in a beautiful green valley set high in the Andes mountains. How easily it was to say with the Psalmist—"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help." Psalms 121:1.



Mrs. Eugene Beekley

What a blessed privilege to be a part of a missionary family for a few short weeks, and to share the problems, the joys, the singing, the Bible study and prayer groups, and yes, the giving of bread to the little gamines (street urchins), that come daily to the door. In fact, it was through this ministry that Ken Solomon had a most interesting contact while I was there.

A young man came seeking food for bodily sustenance one evening, and along with the bread, Ken gave him the customary tracts, or "bread of life". He returned the next evening seeking more of the spiritual food; and the next, and the next. This young man had been put out from his home when he was very young. His companions, as he roamed about the country, were certainly not uplifting. At this particular time, he was unhappy with the life he was leading, but didn't know for what he was searching. Through Ken's leading and through Jan's understanding (as well as sharing their home with him), this young man was led to

accept Christ as his personal savior and make a remarkable turn-about in his daily living. After baptism in the pool of a friend I had made while teaching, Favio shared communion with us in the Solomon home before returning to the area around Cali, where he knew he could find work in the cotton fields. Ken will no doubt write a more complete account of this for THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST, but I wanted to share my thrill with you at being present for this event.

Other beautiful memories of my trip that are still so vivid include the evening that the teen-age group of missionary children met at the Solomon's home. It was so good to see this group sharing the love of God in song and scripture—sharing, too, their particular joys and problems that they had as children of missionaries living in a foreign country. I was particularly proud of Tim and Becky, because they shared God's love, not only with the English speaking young people, but even more so with the Spanish speaking people. Margie and Joel, too, associate equally well with Spanish or English speaking children, and their commitment to the work there is very evident, even in ones so young.

One phase of my trip that had a big impact on my thinking and vision for others, was the meetings in various places with members of "Men for Missions". Before I even left Miami, I met them at the airport. A man and his wife from Indiana were going down to work in a building for one of the missions about 10 hours by train from Medellin. The young man with them, from Hamilton, Ohio, was going to do electrical work on the same building. They were using their vacation time and their vacation money for this work for the Lord! Throughout my stay there I met various groups from this organization who were doing similar construction work, or perhaps, personal testimony work. It should be called, "Men and Women for Missions", though, because the women were just as much in evidence!

Another group traveling about and helping where needed was a large contingent of young people, mainly from Asbury College. The thought occurred to me then and now—Why not from Ashland College?

Anyone feel any urgings yet to join in this part-time or summer ministry? If so, or even if not yet, please talk to me. As for myself, I want to go back and contribute what I can in this wonderful ministry. I'd like to share my pictures, my tapes and song sheets (both in Spanish and English), and my enthusiasm for this new mission field of the Brethren Church! And you can do it, too!

MISSIONARY BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

During the General Conference in August at Ashland,, Ohio, the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church was also in session considering a number of items of business. A great note of PRAISE was heard as the financial position of the Board was considered and it was learned that because of a bequest, the anticipated deficit for 1973 had been turned into a small income. Prayers of thankfulness were heard for the many faithful Brethren who support the world-wide mission program of the denomination representing our Brethren missionaries overseas and home mission pastors here in the United States.

Relating to the home mission ministry, action was taken by the Board for a reorganization of the church extension program as it has to do with the relationship between the home mission church, its pastor, the district Mission Board and our national Missionary Board. Recommendations were made concerning a greater usefulness for the **Brethren Home Mission Revolving Loan Fund** and a more effective **Ten Dollar Club** both relating to their participation in the church extension ministry.

Reports were heard concerning the various overseas fields, the report of the visit of Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar and his wife Nirmala to Brethren Churches this Spring, the increased emphasis on India because of this visit, and the need to continue support for the other fields.

The Board also approved entering into an agreement with David Loi, who is finishing his work at Ashland Theological Seminary, for the possible opening of a new overseas field for the Brethren Church in Malasia. David has been working for his Master of Divinity degree at the Seminary supported by a scholarship, as an international student, from the South Bend Brethren Church. This church, along with other Indiana churches, have committed themselves to support for David with the Missionary Board supervising the work in this new area. David and his fiancee, Jenny Ha, will be married, become members of the Brethren Church, and leave for Malasia before the 30th of September when David's student visa to the United States expires. The Brethren are asked to remember this new venture in prayer that even though the arrangements have had to be made without the usual preparatory study, the Lord might guide David and Jenny as they return to their homeland.

Action was taken by the delegates to General Conference for the Missionary Board to also study the feasibility of operating a Christian campus ministry as a part of its missionary program and if considered possible by the Board to be authorized by this action to begin such a ministry. Prayer is again needed for this study and its implications in November as the Board prepares the budget for 1975.

In a time when some Missionary Boards have had to cut back their outreach, the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church is prayerfully considering the above decisions and its continual concern for evangelism and church growth both at home and abroad. The prayer and financial support of each member of every Brethren Church is earnestly requested.

LIT-LIT REPORT FROM NIGERIA



Roger Mohrlang at the mimeograph

The following is taken from a letter received from Roger Mohrlang, the Wycliffe Bible Translator who has been working with John Guli in the translation of the New Testament into the Higi language.

We PRAISE THE LORD for this report on the primer which is used to teach the Higi people to read so that they might then read the New Testament in their own language. Thanks go out to all who have supported the Lit-Lit program and who continue to do so.

"Last week sixty evangelists, pastors, and church leaders came together for a three day course designed for those who would be teaching literacy in the church; during this time all of them went through the primer and discussed details and methodology relating to the organization and teaching of literacy classes as well. I think it's fair to say that enthusiasm for the book was high. Classes are beginning this week all over the area, and there has been at bit of competition among the churches for the books.

"The first primer has turned out very nice; the art work is superb! We've had two thousand copies run off by the Institute's printing department, and I anticipate a second run of another two thousand before too long. Next Sunday John and I will be discussing the possibility of using it in all the primary schools with the headmasters from the area. The first one is selling for two schillings—about thirty cents; this was just about the maximum price we felt we could ask without cutting out some from getting it.

"John Guli and I are in the stages of preparing a second primer now, to complete the set; we're trying to build all the stories around the subject of health, disease, hygiene, baby care, etc.; I think it's going to turn out well."

GRIEVES RETURN TO NIGERIA

The Jerry Grieves have now returned to their field in Nigeria to continue their work of translation of the New Testament into the Kilba language and the preparation of a primer for this language. You may write to them at the following address:

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Grieve.
c/o Hong Secondary School.
P.M.B. 2016
Hong via Yola, North East State.
Nigeria, West Africa.

The postage rate is 26c for each ½ ounce and airforms are available from your local postoffice for less than this amount.



Jerry and Cheryl Grieve working with Wesley a young man of the Kilba tribe who has been assisting them in translation.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



WORKSHOP TOUR WIND-UP

Written late Friday Night of General Conference (August 17th):

This 3rd, and final, segment of our report about the Workshop Tour to 7 Brethren Churches includes visits to Winding Waters, Louisville, Canton, and Smithville.

I can readily reaffirm all of the good things reported in the last two articles as applying to these four final stops—i.e. keenly interested participants, gracious hospitality, appreciative attenders and a feeling within our staff that it was well worth the effort to display our wagon-full (station wagon, that is) of "stuff" from Brethren House.

Winding Waters: Brethren came from Winding Waters, South Bend, Ardmore, Jefferson, Elkhart and there were non-Brethren from surrounding churches. (Sorry I don't have attendance figures at hand for these workshops). Two ladies on our mailing list drove 160 miles one-way from Lansing, Michigan, to attend and stayed overnight so they could be around for the sessions on Saturday morning and afternoon. They even helped pack up before leaving, as did several people in every Workshop.

Louisville: In addition to Brethren from Louisville and N. Georgetown, there were again teachers from area non-Brethren churches for the 2½ hours each of the two nights.

Canton: Massillon Brethren joined Canton in this Workshop, along with a few other Canton people. In all the sessions there was a good number from the host churches in particular attending these summer-time Workshops.

Smithville: Other Brethren were from Ashland Garber and Newark. Significant among the non-Brethren was the carload of 6 from the Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ in Middletown (nearly 200 miles away). They also are on our Newsletter mailing list and arranged for an overnight motel so they could stay for the second session. (Almost challenges the Cerro Gordo, Illinois, record of coming the farthest—driving 7 hours to the Goshen Workshop.)

In every meeting there were several participants who really keyed in to the materials presented. Their genuine interest and questions were what really sparked each gathering. This evaluating and searching and sharing was quite rewarding to us, for it put us in close touch with those teachers and Christian Education leaders who are actively engaged in "doing a better job." (When we return to Florida we will analyze closely their suggestions for improving our Workshops too).

Thank you all for making our work involved worthwhile and for your assistance with the travel expenses.

LEARNING CENTER DISPLAY AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

It was not until the week before Conference that Bonnie and I decided to display our Learning Center materials there. We just figured that those ideas would do more good out where they could be seen (if anyone came by) rather than boxed up in the station wagon all week. (Probably better for the springs too).

The large study room of the college library was ideal to set-up once more . . . along with the Sewing Display and Workshop in the same room. Quite a few conference delegates did come in to browse a bit, and we appreciated this further opportunity to share information about our Brethren House ministry—and how it is aiding others.

Now all of that is back in the crowded wagon again ready to start back to Florida (after 5 weeks) before many more hours. Thank you, Brethren, for receiving us so graciously and for the keen interest many of you have in our work. We may come again sometime!

—Phil

INTRODUCTION TO ARTICLES ON STUDY OF MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

For the past few years the Brethren Ministerial Association has been preparing a study on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage for use by our ministers and churches. The major part of the study was concluded during Pastor's Conference the end of April, 1974.

Copies of the major papers and responses presented have been made available to each pastor. Extra copies of the papers and one-half hour taped messages on each subject can be obtained for a small fee. Summary copies of each paper and response will be printed in future issues of the Evangelist. In this issue we are printing articles on **Marriage From A Biblical Perspective.** The major paper was written by Dr. Bruce Stark, professor at Ashland College, and responses were made by Rev. Richard Kuns, doctoral student in Old Testament and Archeology at the Hartford Seminary, and Rev. John Brownsberger, pastor, Dayton Hillcrest Brethren Church.

Future articles to be published will be as follows:

1. **An Ethic For Divorce and Remarriage as Set Forth By Jesus.** The major paper was done by Dr. Louis Gough, professor at Ashland Theological Seminary, with responses by Dr. Jerry Flora, professor at ATS, and Rev. William Kerner, pastor of Roann Brethren Church.
2. **Divorce and Remarriage in Church History.** The major paper was done by Rev. Gene Hollinger, pastor of Cedar Fall Brethren Church, with responses by Dr. Owen Alderfer, professor at ATS, and Rev. Charles Lowmaster, pastor, Louisville Brethren Church.

It is the hope of the study committee that these summary papers will assist us as a denomination in formulating a policy on the current issue of Divorce and Remarriage in the Brethren Church.

Brethren Ministerial Study Committee
Rev. John Brownsberger, Chairman
Rev. Charles Lowmaster
Rev. M. W. Dodds
Rev. Richard Allison

MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

A Summary of a Historical-Theological Survey of Biblical Materials

by Dr. Bruce Stark

The proper context for a consideration of the nature and problems of marriage and problems of marriage and the family is the total Biblical witness, conceived of as a history of special revelation. Special problems are best approached from this broad perspective.

Marriage as an institution has the authority of God and was the direct will of the Lord. It involves a monogamous relation of a man and woman in a special covenant. The relation does not destroy the personal identity of neither but does create a new thing: a family. While personal

identity is preserved, there is a rank of administrative responsibility within the home that places the husband at the head. The wife is to be the administrative assistant to the husband. It is specifically stated that Eve was created for Adam and her ful-fillment in the normal course of events should be sought within the structure of the home. The relation of the husband and wife is compared to the relation of Christ and the church. The union is an intimate one of which the marital act itself is the symbol.

Marriage must be regarded as permanent in intention. The strength of solidity of the home is vital to its function in the program of God. Marriage provides a context for the procreation of children and the ful-fillment of the mandate to replenish the earth. It is the specific responsibility of the home to provide for the education of the children that God gives. This means that agreement about the fundamental values of life, religiously interpreted, must prevail between the husband and wife. A considerable amount of the disfavor reflected by the Bible toward interfaith marriages is explained by the fact that such an arrangement seriously compromises, if it does not destroy altogether, the ability of the home to discharge its educational concerns. If a proper witness of the truth of God is to prevail, due care must be exercised to the ful-fillment of this responsibility. It is interesting and vital to observe that there is no Biblical demarcation made between religious and secular education as is common in our day. The implication is that such a distinction is, at the fundamental level, false.

A special caution needs to be sounded against the unequal yoke of believer and unbeliever. Sometimes under social pressure a union of this kind has been effected and accepted. It is the responsibility of the church and the Christian public generally, to do all that it properly can to prevent marriages of this kind. The spiritual havoc and disruption that has been intruded into the spiritual fellowship of God's family through this channel is incalculable.

There is a sense in which marriage is redemptive. But we are not thinking of this in a sacramental sense. It is redemptive with respect to its educational responsibilities previously referred to. The inculcating of the Word of God, the impact of personal example, and the exhortation and encouragement to spiritual living all make education redemptive in nature. But marriage is also redemptive in another sense. It enhances the spiritual maturity of husband and wife as they minister to each other. Being heirs together of the grace of life they uplift and encourage and sanctify each other in the holy relationship of marriage. To pray together, labor together, study together creates bonds stronger than steel and issues in the mutual edification of each. Marriage is also redemptive in the sense that it provides a proper expression for sexuality. Paul warns that it is wrong to burn with lust, and the marriage relationship can provide not only the possibility but the responsibility of mutual sexual expression.

While it is correctly inferred that marriage is the will of God for most people, it is not true that marriage **per se** represents **de facto** a superior spiritual ideal than the unmarried state. In spite of clear Pauline teaching on the subject, it has generally been believed otherwise. The right of a person to remain single is inviolate and its dignity should be protected. If self-control sexually can be maintained, without reliance on any perversions of the sexual instinct, and the individual so wishes, it is good in the sight of God, in principle.

While inter-racial marriage is not wrong in principle, the practical considerations against it are enormous. It would seem to be the responsibility of the counsellor to point out the hazards of this kind of marriage, but he ought not to refuse, purely on the grounds of Biblical principle to be a part of such a relationship. The right of marriage here too inviolate however, and it is unjust for prejudice to hinder or thwart the proper expression of the marriage right in these circumstances. The counsellor would do well to help the inter-racial couple to think through many of the important implications of a decision to marry so that the decision that is ultimately made may be a mature one so far as he is able to encourage it to be so. It is tempting in such a circumstance to be too directive in our approach.

Modern man, as ancient man, has perverted the true intent of marriage. Free love and general sexual promiscuity are a burgeoning part of the scene, as the college campus abundantly testifies. The so-called homosexual marriage is more and more under discussion. Divorce continues to increase and our sense of moral shock is nearly gone. Legalized prostitution is now to be found in Nevada and we may confidently expect its increase. Perhaps the greatest perversion of all is the massive abdication of parental responsibility in the education of their children. Statist education cannot possibly fulfill the Biblical norm. None of the above perversion is acceptable. All of them should be resisted on the ground of Biblical principle. Let the church therefore, continue to study the Scriptures so as to understand more perfectly the will of God, and let the churches and its pastors have the moral courage necessary to assert and reassert a concept of marriage and the family that is entitled to the commendation of our Lord. May these solid convictions find a place not only in our local experience, but find expression in policy statements at the District and National level, so as to enhance in this practical way the deep spiritual unity that we have as members of the family of God.

Marriage is redemptive also in its outward thrust. What is commonly referred to as man's cultural mandate requires that he strive to bring the entire creation and culture into true spiritual focus. To cite a contemporary instance, ecology should be approached from this perspective, and the effort made to conserve the gifts of God in this area, not alone for their practical usefulness to man, but by virtue of the fact that in their ultimate sense the things of nature, water, air, vegetation, etc. belong to God and we are stewards not only of his grace, but also of his gifts. Marriage is related to the cultural mandate in that the woman and man together in a common mutuality, can strive together, take encouragement together and succeed together in honoring God everywhere.

(continued on next page)

MARRIAGE IN ITS ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN CONTEXT — A Response

by Richard R. Kuns

In order to analyze the biblical treatment of marriage it is methodologically sound to study the Bible in its Ancient Near Eastern setting. God's revelation of himself did not arise in a vacuum without regard for the cultural setting of the people to whom the revelation was made. On this basis our response will attempt to handle key sections of the Old Testament in their Ancient Near Eastern contexts.

It is also most important that we do not expect to find a total theology of marriage in the Bible. This is not to say that some basic principles cannot be found, but that the Bibles gives us no systematic picture. This is due to the progressive nature of God's revelation over many centuries of time from Genesis to Revelation and the general point-of-view of the Oriental mind which does not put a premium on systematizing.

However, it is a trait of western "scientific" culture to systematically organize. It is at this point that hazards arise. We must be careful not to systematize according to preconceived ideas, no matter how righteous we believe them to be.

I. Purpose of Marriage

It is instructive to note that the opening statement on marriage in the **Encyclopedia Judaica** says,

> "In Jewish teaching, marriage is the ideal human state and is considered a basic social institution established by God at the time of creation."[1]

From the opening chapters of Genesis the Bible clearly indicates that man is at a loss when alone, even in the midst of an ideal situation such as the Garden of Eden. (cf Gen. 2:15ff) He is in need of a helper and nothing else but a woman will be sufficent as "a helper fit for him."

But the Bible also makes it clear that this relationship is not simply companionship. The blessing of God upon them is expressed in terms of procreation. (cf Gen. 1:27f) Indeed it is the mark of a man's prosperity when he has many children, especially sons. (cf Dt. 28:2ff; Job 1:2ff; 42:10ff; **et al**). Thus the basic view of the Old Testament is that marriage is for procreation. This is a concept modern man must carefully evaluate in light of current population growth, available natural resources to support life on this planet and other social and psychological problems of overcrowding.

II. ABRAHAM, SARAH, HAGAR, ISHMAEL

It is clearly evident that childless marriages were looked upon in the Ancient East very seriously because inheritance problems arose if there was no son. Nearly all the major law codes of the Ancient East dealt with the situation by outlining the legal steps to be taken to insure a son in the family.[2] These codes spell out that the male offspring of the union of the man and a second wife or the maid of the first wife will be the legal heir and outline the position the boy's mother had in relation to the first wife.

Genesis 15 and 16 provides us with a biblical example of this problem. From a Christian perspective as we look back upon it—the actions of Abraham and Sarah might be shocking, but the response recorded here is unusual only in that they waited so long to remedy the childless situation.

Both Abraham's adoption of Eliezer as his son (Gen. 15:1ff) and Sarah's giving of Hagar, her handmaid, to Abraham for the express purpose of bearing him a son (Gen. 16:2) are illuminated in the thousands of Babylonian clay tablets found at Nuzu in northeast Iraq.[3] These tablets show the legal, cultural and social background of Genesis 15 and 16 as being acceptable social actions. (cf Gen. 30:3)

Now it is possible to draw all sorts of theological conclusions about this in terms of faith or lack of faith, but we must be very cautious. These people clearly acted within the context of their culture and felt at the time their actions were justified. As the biblical narrative unfolds it indicates that they made the wrong move, but rather than condemn we should be rather forewarned. What does become clear historically is that the action laid the groundwork for later dissention religiously and politically. Even today the descendants of Ismael and Isaac vie for their inheritance of the land.

III. MONOGAMY VS. POLYGAMY

There is little question that the ideal concept of the Old Testament marriage was monogamous. Essentially this is the concept espoused in Genesis 2:24. The prophetic literature uses the metaphor of a monogamous marriage to illustrate God's attachment to Israel. (cf Ezekiel 16; Hosea 2:21ff;

Malachi 2:10-16) Wisdom literature assumes the principle of a monogamous marriage relationship and extols the virtues of a good marriage and a good wife., (cf Pro. 12:4; 18:22; 19:14; esp. 31:10-31)[4]

One can easily document that monogamy is the Old Testament ideal for marriage, but having done this let us not try to make the Old Testament Christian in this regard. Even though monogamy was ideally stated polygamy was not formally condemned. In fact, polygamy was recognized as a legal fact of life in Deuteronomy 21:15-17 and attempts to regulate the conflict of loyalities which would arise out of this type of marital relationship.

The Dead Sea sect at Qumran was the first Jewish group to make explicit prohibition of polygamy in their **Halakhah,** i.e. the religious law which binds personal actions. This was an innovation in Jewish teaching. It was not until Rabbi Gershom b. Judah (960-1028 A.D.) that polygamy was forbidden and then only for the Ashkenazi Jew. Polygamy is still not forbidden in the **Halakhad** of the Sephardic Jew. This has forced the State of Israel, which prohibits polygamy by law, to make special allowances for Sephardic Jews who immigrate to Israel with more than one wife.[5]

IV. MARRIAGE CONTRACTS

In recent years the idea of couples drawing up marriage contracts spelling out the responsibilities each partner must bear has been put forth as a new and enlightened concept. However enlightened modern society may think this idea is, it is certainly not new! By 2,000 B.C. the Laws of Eshnunna state that a marriage is not binding without a marriage contract worked out with the bride's parents (Nos. 27, 28).

The Code of Hammurapi states the Babylonian principle very pointedly: "If a man takes a wife, but did not draw up her contract, that woman is no wife." (CH 128)

It is not clear whether the people of ancient Israel drew up marriage contracts, but some biblical passages suggest that they did. (cf Malachi 2:14; Pro. 2:17; Ezek. 16:8)

In some ways this may seem to put marriage into a strictly legal, civil framework without religious overtones. But this would be forcing a modern, western conceptualization upon a Near Eastern framework. The neat line we draw between church and state was not only unheard of in the Ancient Near East but they are impossible categories.

V. DIVORCE

No law of divorce is systematically set down in the Bible. It seems to be mentioned almost in passing in that critical Old Testament passage thrust at Jesus. (Deut. 24:1ff; cf Matt. 19:9) References to the writing of a bill of divorce is mentioned only three times in the Old Testament and only the Deuteronomy 24:1ff passage gives any hint to the basis for divorce. (cf Isaiah 50:1; Jeremiah 3:8)

The troublesome phrase of Deuteronomy 24:1 is "some indecent thing." The meaning of this phrase has been in much debate. In the first century of the common era the following interpretation was given.

> "The School of Shammai say: A man may not divorce his wife unless he has found unchastity in her, for it is written, **Because he hath found in her** indecency **in anything.** And the School of Hillel say: (He may divorce her) even if she spoiled a dish for him, for it is written, **Because he hath found in her indecency** in anything. . . ." (Gitten 9:10)[6]

The teaching of the School of Hillel prevailed and became **Halakhah.**

In spite of the apparent lack of clarity on divorce, Jewish teaching taught that the ideal marriage was that of a permanent union and conjugal fidelity was praised. Although the School of Hillel prevailed, Talmudic law did not look upon the dissolution of a marriage with favor, except in cases of adultery.

VI. SUMMARY

1) The biblical ideal of marriage is monogamous, although polygamy was frequently practiced without expressed condemnation in the Old Testament.
2) Marriage is for the procreation of children.
3) Marriage is taken very seriously and entered into with all due regard for the gravity of the situation. Apparently the responsibilities of the man and woman were often thought through and written out in the form of a contract.
4) Divorce was allowed but discouraged with the only clear cut reason being adultery, at least in the New Testament. It is less clear in the Old Testament where adultery was handled by stoning, not divorce.
5) Marriage and the family which is thus formed is a basic social structure.
6) The biblical ideal of marriage is permanent.

FOOTNOTES

[1] **Encyclopaedea Judaica,** Vol. 11, Jerusalem: Keter Publishing House, Ltd., 1971. p. 1026ff.

[2] Lipit-Ishtar, paragraph No. 27, dating ca 1870 B.C.; Code of Hammurapi, paragraphs 144-147, dating ca. 1700 B.C.; See James B. Pritchard, **Ancient Near Eastern Texts,** Princeton University Press, p. 159f. This is the easiest source in which to find the texts cited in this study.

[3] Gordon, C. H., "Biblical Customs and the Nuzu Tablets," **Biblical Archaeologist Reader,** Vol. 2, Garden City: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1964. (Anchor Books A250b).

[4] For a concise but good treatment of marriage in the Old Testament see Roland de Vaux, **Ancient Israel,** Vol. I, Social Institutions, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1965. (Paperback edition, p. 24ff).

[5] cf **Damascus Document,** 4:20-5:15; Cohen, A., **Everyman's Talmud,** New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1949; Strack, Hermann L., **Introduction to the Talmud and Midrash,** New York: Atheneum, 1969; Lipman, Eugene J., **The Mishanah, Oral Teachings of Judaism,** New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1970.

[6] Danby, Herbert, **The Mishnah,** London: Oxford University Press, p. 321.

A RESPONSE TO DR. STARK ON MARRIAGE FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

by John Brownsberger

Dr. Sark, has sounded forth many "Battle Cries," which need to be made on marriage today. I can only express a loud "A-MEN" to what he has written.

My basic concern with his paper is that he gives no consideration to the diversity of various views on marriage found with the Bible. The Bible is not a flat book from beginning to end with complete uniformity of insight, approach and emphasis on the subject of marriage. There are especially variations between the Old and New Testaments on the subject.

The OLD TESTAMENT holds that marriage is **primarily designed for procreation** as does the Roman Catholic Church and those cultures where parents make the marital selection. The classical text to this idea is Genesis 1:28, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

A **secondary view** on marriage found in the Old Testament **exalts erotic love,** almost deifies woman and romantic attachments. Isaac's love of Rebecca, Jacob's love for Rachel, and Solomon's Song of Songs are examples of the romantic motif. One can easily see how too much emphasis on the romantic cult can result into the cult of adultery such as our present culture displays.

The primary view of the NEW TESTAMENT on marriage is what could be called the **companion view.** Here the emphasis is on **companionability and covenant** based on a community of interests and ideals as the chief end of marriage. Partners committed to a common cause exercise discipline or dedicate themselves to continence within the marriage bond. This view has its basis in Genesis 2:20-25 and is stressed in the Old Testament prophetic books (esp. Hosea and Malachi), stressed by Jesus in the Gospels, and especially developed by Paul in a positive way in Eph. 5 and a negative way in I Cor. 6. Deut. 24:5 is also significant as it allowed a newly married man to be exempt from the army and from business for one year to stay at home and cheer his bride.

In my opinion this view is the most healthy balance between the other two and can be found historically in the Anabaptists, the Quakers, the Brethren, and the later Puritans. I believe this view can also best meet the needs of our age, the population problems, birth control, and marital breakdown. Much could be said in this view for developing "Marriage Contracts" and procedures for opening up interpersonal relations between marriage partners, both in pre-marital preparation and in marriage sessions. This view also best fits into the Brethren concept of the church as a community of covenant believers.

SOME THEOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS ABOUT MARRIAGE BASED ON THE COMPANION VIEW:

1. **Marriage is dialogue.** Man becomes a free and responsible person through creative dialogue; where creative dialogue ceases man's humanity is eclipsed and in marriage, at least, spiritual divorce and adultery develops as a Covenant is broken. (Compare Ezek. 16 for a spiritual view of adultery.) The New Testament introduces a whole new world of positive human relations in which men and women in the "New Creation" are no longer objects of lust and exploitation as are people of the world, but **"co-heirs** of the grace of life" (I Pet. 3:7). A creative dialogue is one which frees the marriage partners from exploiting each other to lovingly serving each other. Romantic love is by no way ruled out but not absolutely necessary either.

2. **Christian marriage is a divine mystery** (Eph. 5:32) Essentially it is not a sexual but a spiritual reality. Here lies the meaning of the "one flesh" concept for which the physical sex act is a symbol. In the New Testament marriage acquires new significance, not within the context of procreation as in Israel, but within the context of re-creation in Christ. The inner meaning of the exclusive love between husband and wife is to be sought in the covenant love of God in Christ. It is not a romantic falling in love, primarily, but a total commitment of one's self in a human covenant whose meaning lies in the divine covenant. Marriage does not take place unless a covenant is sealed in the marriage vows.

If the marriage covenant exemplifies God's covenant with man, then we can understand the strong views against divorce in the book of Hosea and the words of Malachi (2:14f), and of Jesus that divorce was only permitted by Moses because of the "stubborn hearts" of the people.

3. **While marriage is complete without having children, it is intended to allow for Children but not exclusively** as many marriages without children have shown. The command of Gen. 1:28 to multiply and fill the earth need not apply in the

same sense to the church in an age of population explosion as it did to Israel. In Israel a woman who was unable "to be fruitful and multiply" was considered accursed. In the church it is not so. The geneology through Abraham and David fulfilled its purpose and achieved its destiny in the birth of the Messiah (Matt. 1, Luke 3). Central to the New Testament is not physical procreation but "Children of God Born . . . of God." (John 1:13). With the coming of Christ a new era began in which it is the new birth by the Spirit which carries ultimate significance, not the physical line of Messiah (Matt. 1, Luke 3, Jn. 1:13, chapter 3 and Gal. 6:14-16). Judaism had no word for bachelor almost all men and women were married. Jesus radically changed that tradition.

The New Testament must be allowed to reinterpret the Old Testament in the area of marriage as well as in the area of law and grace. The Brethren have always held as a part of their theological position that the New Testament is our basis for faith and practice. Perhaps, even without using the New Testament to re-interpret the Old, we could say from a practical point of view that the command to "replenish the earth" has more than been fulfilled. While deliberate sterility within marriage may be a refusal of a divine offer of children, it is wrong to take procreation for granted as the way for all people today. To have a child is a responsible decision under God, which in our day of over-population, hunger, etc., is not self-evident. In having children today we must display an act of faith and trust in life itself and in so doing in a God who gives to us the resources for dealing responsibly in our age. Stark's approach simply does not deal with this critical issue.

Concluding Statement:

Although the Biblical ideal for marriage is developing a companion — covenant (Monogamous and permanent) relationship with God's covenant love as the protype of the marriage covenant, I doubt if we can enforce this on other cultures in calling them into the Christian faith as perhaps the allowance (not justification for) of divorce and polygamy suggested in the Old Testament. The gospel need first be preached and perhaps church leaders need to fulfill this ideal, but this is an open question for all of the people brought into the church.

ATTITUDES ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOUND CHANGING

MEMPHIS (EP)—In contrast to attitudes two decades ago, the American people today apparently have few reservations about divorce and remarriage among high public officials.

Do religious leaders share the more tolerant view? The Memphis Commercial Appeal here raised the question with local, regional and national religious figures in the wake of developments in Washington, D.C.: Both Vice President-nominee Nelson Rockefeller and Mrs. Betty Ford, the wife of the new President, have been divorced and remarried.

The Commerical Appeal found religious leaders generally unwilling to condone divorce, and some who feel that divorce in high places is a sign of national moral laxity. But the individuals questioned were not particularly inclined to impose their views on the public-at-large.

MEN'S CONGRESS

In the beautiful setting of northern Pennsylvania lies a Christian activity center called Muncy Terraces. There is room for over 200 guests as well as additional space for trailers and campers. The Redwood Auditorium will seat up to 800 and a second auditorium will seat groups of up to 250. All facilities are fully winterized.

On October 18, 19 and 20, 1974 these pleasant surroundings will be bustling with men from five denominations. They will hear Rev. Wilfred Bellamy, Rev. Peter Unruh and a wealth of musical talent. The program is planned to instruct, inspire and entertain.

Rev. Wilfred Bellamy will be the inspirational speaker of the Congress. After serving in the Royal Air Force and graduating from the University of London, England, Rev. Bellamy and his wife, Nita, were appointed for service in Nigeria by the Sudan Interior Mission. He served as lecturer, Bible teacher, in district missionary work and in church planting and evangelism.

Rev. Peter D. Unruh will be the workshop leader of the congress. The popular pastor of the Wooddale Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is a graduate of Augsburg College, Minneapolis and Bethel Seminary, St. Paul.

After serving for four years in Oakland, California, he assumed leadership of his present charge in 1957. Since then Wooddale Baptist has experienced a 10% growth for a number of years. From an annual budget of $17,000.00 and a membership of approximately 150 in 1957, the church has grown to a present budget of $423,000.00 and an attendance (during early 1974) of 900 in Sunday school, 1200 in worship service and 900 in evening worship.

Aside from looking forward to hearing these two outstanding leaders, there is the opportunity of joyous fellowship with other Christian men. Small groups for prayer and sharing will again be formed. At least one group of men is planning to attend by church bus. This will give extra opportunity for them to fellowship with each other.

As we remember the blessings of other men's congresses, we look forward with anticipation to the blessings and joys of this coming one.

Fill out following registration blank for your reservation and send to address at bottom of form.

Supplementary information has just been received by our office pertaining to registrations and directions to the Congress. It is hoped that registrations will be sent in by October 1st so that plans for facilities for food and sleep may be arranged ahead of time. Some may prefer to furnish their own sleeping facilities by the use of campers or trailers.

Highway 147 is now a 4-lane and by-passes Muncy. It is suggested that those coming from the south exit at the Muncy Main Street off-ramp and continue through town several miles beyond Muncy on Main Street. Muncy Terraces will be located on the left side of highway.

Registration Blank
MEN'S CONGRESS
OCTOBER 18, 19, 20, 1974
Muncy Terraces, Muncy, Pennsylvania

Please register me for the Men's Congress. I am enclosing the $10.00 registration fee which I understand is not refundable. On arrival (or if you wish you may enclose full payment with your registration blank), I agree to pay the additional $20.00 which covers the cost of the entire Congress.

Rev./ or Mr. _____
first middle initial last

My wife will attend also _____
name

Address _____
street or route city state zip

Home Church _____ Denomination _____

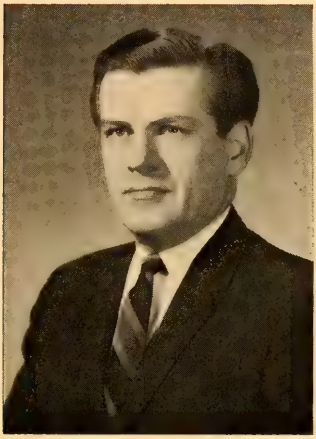
Roomate Preference _____

Camping space needed _____

Date _____ Signed _____

Make checks out to: Men's Congress 1974
Send registrations to: Mr. Calvin Harvey, 133 South Jenson Rd., Vestal, NY 13850

WHERE THE ACTION IS



by Dr. J. R. Shultz

Where is God acting today? The movement of God is manifested and evidenced in many places in various ministries.

I. IN THE "THIRD" WORLD

Asia, Ocenia, Latin America, and Africa in the missionary movement of Christianity is called the third world. It is exactly in these areas of the world where the response to God is spectacular. Between 1963-1973, Church growth in the third world was 122%. The ICOWE workshop estimates that the probable growth rate by 1978 will be 291%!!

This kind of projected growth needs Christian leadership! Asia's population alone is approximately 2 billion, 45% of the total population of our planet. Yet, Christianity is directing only 5% of her resources to this need. Missionaries—that is, disciple-makers sent out "cross-culturally" are needed more than ever. National missionaries and Western missionaries are **both** needed to get the job done.

II. IN THE NEW GENERATION

Many high school, college/university, and "secular" young people are turning to Christ. Inter-Varsity hosted 12,000 College/University at "Urbana 73" to consider the cause of Christ in the world. Thousands committed themselves to Gospel ministry and missions. World Vision organized a crusade in Korea where **hundreds of thousands** of young people met in the name of Christ. "Eurofest" is a planned meeting in Brussels next year for Christian young people to engage in Bible study and evangelism.

These world-wide dramatic Christian crusades among young people are viable and significant. The parable of the wheat and tares is apropos: the tares, representing evil and sin, is more evident —but so is the wheat! The "wheat," representing the Gospel of Jesus Christ—is also bearing fruit. More Christian young people, boldly withnessing of Jesus Christ, are everywhere in the world!

III. IN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY STUDENT BODY

The receptivity to the Gospel is very strong on campuses. Young people are witnessing and working for Christ. An Ashland College student senate representative, also student representative on the Board of Trustees, Peg Downing, declares her faith in Christ in a strong and beautiful way.

From the aegis of Ashland College Christian Coalition, the Thursday evening Christian youth group, nine are going into Seminary this fall—**eight of them to Ashland Theological Seminary!**

The Church has a great opportunity "knocking at its door." The young people are anxious to be:

"sought out of secular society,
loved in the Body of Christ,
for the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Educational Day offering is not only a tangible means of providing Christian programs and leadership for the Christian youth movement in higher education, but also an expression of the love of Jesus Christ and faith in the future of the Church. E.D.O. is the Brethren Church's Christian witness in higher education.

Action Here

Action



Dr. Charles Munson trying to get up at the Seminary retreat last fall.— That's ACTION too, but not much!



Part of our Christian fellowship ACTION at an ice cream social.



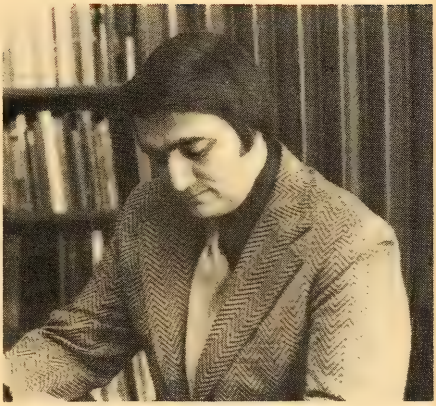
Vijaya Kumar will tranfer his ACTION to the Brethren mission field in India. Bob Young (on the left) will finish his seminary training in December and will be going out to serve. Earl Crissman (right) will be finishing his seminary training this year and will be going into ACTION where God leads.

Action There

rywhere



David Loi, seminary senior, who is transferring his ACTION to a new Brethren mission field in Malaysia.



Dr. Richard Allison who is joining the Seminary ACTION team this fall as a professor.



ACTION in planning. Jim Geaslen is conferring with Tom Stark, who will be attending Ashland Seminary this fall.



Tom Skinner spoke to this group about ACTION in the Kingdom of God.

(Cover Photograph)
ACTION at the Seminary. Professor Delbert Flora in research.

AT ASHLAND COLLEGE AND SEMINARY WE HAVE JOINED THE ACTION PEOPLE



by Virgil Meyers

The Coalition for Christian Outreach is centered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This fall it will have 46 missioners on college campuses in Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. There are 500,000 college students in these schools. Rev. Jim Geaslen is the Coalition worker on our campus. Rev. Virgil Meyer, Director of Religious Affairs at the College, is on the board of directors of The Coalition. The Coalition's business is to call students to commitment to Jesus Christ, to grow in Him, to learn from Him and to serve Him.

All Ashland College students know that there is an active Christian community on the campus. The Faculty and the Administration are well aware of the activities of this group. Our Christian students are workers. They have committed themselves to ACTION—in the name of Christ. These students regularly put out the "Christian Fellowship News." This goes to all the resident students and the Faculty. It announces the Christian activities on the campus. Bible studies are held in the dormitories. They are taught by students! These are also discipleship groups. The leader assumes the responsibility for the spiritual growth of each student in his or her group.

The weekly Celebration fellowship is planned and run by the students with the assistance of the campus ministers. There is a Fellowship of Christian Athletes that regularly meets and tries to witness to and interest their fellow athletes. The Alpha Theta organization is a group of Christian young people who regularly plan service projects, sending singing, preaching and witnessing groups to various churches, and organize many local projects.

Besides this, many of these young people take active parts in local church congregations.

Another significant part of this total impact upon students would be the service of the professors in the Religion Department, who so faithfully give witness to the power of the Scriptures and the Christian faith. There are many very open Christian professors on the campus here and in the Administration as well.

Our ACTION group witnesses to the whole campus through bringing to the campus outstanding speakers. Mike Warnke, a former high priest of Satan who is now studying for the Christian ministry, during the past year spoke to 3,300 students, faculty and church people of the community. Tom Skinner, who is called the Billy Graham of the black people, spoke to 2,800 people from our college community. Opportunity was given at the close of each of these services for people to accept Christ. In addition, more than a dozen ministers and Christian speakers come to the campus to witness to various groups of our school during the school year.

Yes, we are committed to be a part of the ACTION PEOPLE. Of the seniors who graduated just a few months ago—in May—one is in professional baseball. He wrote the other day that he has recruited six of his teammates to be a part of a Bible study group over in Decatur, Illinois where he is playing ball. Nine of these seniors are going to seminary, eight of them to Ashland Theological Seminary! In addition to this, there are three Brethren seniors who will be attending Ashland Seminary.

In conclusion, we simply ask that you will keep faith with us and share your tithes and offerings for THE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY OFFERING ON EDUCATION DAY in October. We invite you to be an ACTION PERSON.

Virgil Meyer,
Director of Religious Affairs, Ashland College
Director of Christian Ministries,
Ashland Theological Seminary

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

WHO OWNS YOU?

We take the following illustration from the life of Sir John Ramsden of Huddersfield, England.

When quite a young man he saw that Huddersfield was destined from its location in Yorkshire to become a great industrial center. Property was certain to acquire a largely increased value in the near future. He therefore began quietly to purchase houses and lands, and in a few years he was possessor of the whole town, with the exception of a cottage and garden which belonged to a Quaker gentleman.

All the overtures of the real estate man having proved futile, Sir John Ramsden himself called one day upon the Quaker to see what he could accomplish by personal influence. The usual courtesies having passed between the Knight and the Quaker, Sir John Ramsden said: "I presume you know the object of my visit."

"Yes," said the Quaker, "I have heard that thou hast bought the whole of Huddersfield with the exception of this cottage and garden, and I have been earnestly solicited by thy agents to sell this. But I do not want to sell. The cottage was built for my own convenience and suits me well. The garden, too, is laid out to suit my tastes. Why should I sell them?"

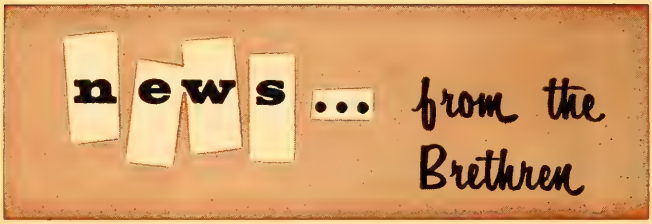
Sir John Ramsden said, "I am prepared to make you a very generous proposal. I will put a golden sovereign on every inch of ground covered by this cottage and garden, it you will sell." (An English sovereign is, in normal times, about equal both in size and value to a five-dollar gold piece.)

Sir John felt sure a proposal of such a nature would not be in vain. So he inquired, "Will you sell?"

"No," said the Quaker with a mischievous twinkle in his eye: "Not unless thou'lt put them on edge."

This was altogether out of the question, and, somewhat chagrined, Sir John rose to leave. As he was going, the Quaker said: "Remember, Sir John, that Huddersfield belongs to thee and to me."

Does anything please Satan better than to look up into the face of Jesus and say, "That man is a prominent officer and worker in that church, but he belongs to me and to Thee?" "That woman is a diligent worker in Thy cause, but I have some stock in her life; she belongs to me and to Thee." Such is the penalty of compromise, reservation, and disputed ownership.



Weddings

LYNCH - MILLER

Miss Barbara Jean Lynch and Glenn Staley Miller were united in marriage, June 1, 1974 at the Vinco Brethren Church. The Rev. C. William Cole, Pastor of the Vinco Church and the Rev. Henry Bates of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, former pastor of the Vinco Church performed the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex M. Lynch of East Taylor Township, Conemaugh, Pennsylvania; and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn S. Miller of Mineral Point, Vinco, Pennsylvania.

Barbara and Glenn are both active members in the Vinco Church and will reside in Vinco.

* * *

SWEET - HUESTON

On Saturday afternoon, July 21, 1974 in a lovely ceremony on the lawn of the College Corner Church, Miss Dana Sweet and Mr. John Forrest Hueston were united in marriage.

Dana is the daughter of Mrs. Peggy Sweet and the late Everd Sweet. John is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hueston. Both Dana and John are active members of the church. Their home is in Converse, Indiana, Rt. 1.

* * *

BIZJAK - LECKEY

Miss Roxanne Marie Bizjak and Daniel Herman Leckey were united in marriage, August 17, 1974, at the Vinco Brethren Church. The Rev. C. William Cole performed the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor L. Bizjak of Franklin Boro., Conemaugh, Pennsylvania; and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leckey of Bartlett Ave., Conemaugh, Pennsylvania.

Dan is an active member of the Vinco Church. The newlyweds are residing in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

* * *

KELLY - MILLER

Paula Jean Kelley and Kenneth Wayne Miller were united in marriage July 27, 1974 at the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, Wabash, Indiana. Rev. Gerald Welsh officiated for the double ring ceremony. Kenneth is a member of the College Corner Church and Paula is a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. The young couple now live on Rt. 3, Wabash, Indiana.

PRICE - CARPENTER

Miss Carol Jean Price and Vaughn Theodore Carpenter were united in marriage, May 11, 1974, at the Vinco Brethren Church. The Rev. C. William Cole performed the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester L. Price of Wm. Penn Ave., Conemaugh, Pennsylvania; and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carpenter of Johnstown, Pennsylvana.

Carol was a faithful member of the Vinco Sunday school. The newlyweds are residing in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Ford, Harmony Drive, Conemaugh, Pennsylvania celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, June 6, 1974.



To Rev. and Mrs. Larry Baker September 1, a son, Jared Scott, who weighted in at 8lb 1½ ounces. Rev. Baker is Pastor of The First Brethren Church in North Georgetown, Ohio.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Fort Scott, Kansas—7 by letter
Ardmore, South Bend, Indiana—2
Vinco Brethren—7 by baptism, 2 by letter

Memorials

MACKALL

Mr. Walter S. Mackall, 95, died June 28, 1974. Was a member of Vinco Brethren Church, of which he was Senior Deacon and held many other church offices. He was preceded in death by wife, Lucy (Singer) Mackall, daughter and two sons. Survived by daughter, Mrs. Carl Smith; a son, Chester both of Vinco. Death of wife on June 24, 1973, ended marriage union of 70 years. Funeral service was held at Vinco Brethren Church by the Rev. C. William Cole and the Rev. Henry Bates. Interment in Wesley Chapel Cemetery.

* * *

MACKALL

Mrs. Margaret Mackall, 60, died April 20, 1974. Was a member of Vinco Brethren Church, and former member of Christian Missionary Society. Survived by husband, James I. Mackall, and these children: Joanne Leidy, Las Vegas, Nevada; Dr. James I. Jr., Zanesville, Ohio; Millard F., Albion, Michigan; Kathryn Rybar, Waterford, Pennsylvania. Funeral service was held at Vinco Brethren Church, by the Rev. C. William Cole. Interment, Pike Brethren Cemetery.

* * *

VARNER

Mr. Robert C. Varner 63, died August 20, 1974. Survived by his widow, former Jessie Good, and two daughters, Mrs. Donald R. Miller, Allentown, Pennsylvania; and Mrs. Harry Fochtman, Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Varner was a member of Vinco Brethren Church. Funeral service was held at John A. Baker Funeral Chapel, Conemaugh, Pennsylvania, by the Rev. C. William Cole. Interment, Benshoff Hill Cemetery.

* * *

SINGER

Mrs. Anna T. Singer 81, died August 25, 1974. Was a member of Vinco Brethren Church. Preceded in death by husband, the Rev. Ralph M. Singer, who died Dec. 7, 1948. Survived by daughter, Mrs. Weldon Smith, Vinco; and sons, James and Lyle, Conemaugh; William, Florida, and John, New Jersey. Funeral service was held at Vinco Brethren Church, by the Rev. C. William Cole. Interment, Benshoff Hill Cemetery.

* * *

GABLE

Mrs. Mary Ethel Gable was called to Heavenly Home on April 29, 1974. Mrs. Gable was a member of the Loree Brethren Church for many years, having taught a Sunday school class for about fifty years and taking part in every work of the church and Sunday school. Mrs. Gable lived to be 89 years old and had a good witness to all people for God and His Church.

Rev. W. E. Thomas, Pastor

SAUSAMAN

Mr. Gail Sausaman, 74, passed away August 6, 1974. Gail was a resident of South Bend, Indiana, and a member of the Ardmore Brethren Church. He was also an active Layman. Rev. Stephen Cole, pastor of the North Liberty Brethren Church, conducted memorial services at the Welsheimer Funeral Home on August 9. Interment was in the Highland Cenetery.

* * *

COSBY

Mrs. Edna A. Cosby, 65, of South Bend, Indiana, passed away on July 26, 1974. She was a member of the Ardmore Brethren Church and active in the W.M.S. work. Rev. Brian Moore conducted memorial services at the Welsheimer Funeral Home on July 31. Interment was in the Southlawn Cemetery.

* * *

HOOVER

Mrs. Minnie M. Hoover, 81, passed away August 21, 1974. She was a member of the Ardmore Brethren Church. Rev. Brian Moore, Pastor, conducted Memorial Services at the Welsheimer Funeral Home on August 23, Interment was in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

* * *

WOOD

Clara C. Wood, 70, went to be with the Lord August 18, 1974. She was a member of the Fort Scott Brethren Church for over 50 years and was loved by all. The Memorial services were conducted at Earls Funeral Home August 21, 1974. She is survived by her husband Gerald Wood, her son Ronald, three sisters and three grandchildren.

Rev. Buck D. Garrett officiated.

* * *

STOCKTON

Dora Stockton died August 25, 1974 at the age of 93. Memorial services were conducted August 28 at the Oberlin and Ford Funeral Home by Rev. M. W. Dodds, with burial at Brown Cemetery, Bryan. Mrs. Stockton had been a member of the Bryan, Ohio First Brethren Church since 1921.

* * *

TYNER

Mr. Clark Tyner went to be with the Lord on May 15, 1974 at the age of 87. His wife, Pearl Brubaker Tyner died on Sept. 9, 1972. They were faithful members of the College Corner Church; both having been baptized and taken into membership in 1926.

Survivors include two daughters; Mrs. Edna Hood and Mrs. Mabel Mills. Two sons, Herman and the Rev. Howard Tyner; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services for Mr. Tyner were conducted at the church by the pastor, Duane Dickson. Burial was in Mississinewa Cemetery, Wabash, Indiana.

SISTERHOOD

TO KNOW HIM

Hello! Allow me to introduce myself before we get started on today's program. My name is Pat Richey, my husband is Rev. Paul Richey, who is pastoring the Cameron, W. Va., church and the Quiet Dell, Pa., church. We have two sons, Wayne who is now five years old and Steven who is three years old. We live in a large house in Cameron, West Virginia.

I am a registered nurse. I work one hour a day in a small nursing home in our community. The rest of my time is divided among my family, church, and the small religious book store that we run in the front room of our home.

Now I'd like to share with you some thoughts that I have been given concerning the Goals for which to reach in your monthly programs. In the National Sisterhood Constitution, the purposes for your society are "deeper devotion to Christ be promoted among the young women of the church; to increase the spirit of sisterhood among them; to do missionary and benevolent work; to serve, to seek Christ and their local congregation; and to help each individual develop a concept of Christian womanhood and to grow toward that ideal."

It is my belief that none of these ideals can be attained unless one starts at the beginning. It is with this thought in mind that I would like to present to you an outline of the direction in which I think we are headed in this year's program articles.

TO KNOW HIM
October—Study in Romans
Those Who Belong are Free!
November—Study in Romans
Man Dies to Save Stranger!
December—Study in Hebrews
Down With Establishment!

TO LOVE HIM
January—Trust
February—Obedience
March—Honesty

TO WORSHIP HIM
April—True Confessions!
May—The "Hot Line"
June—Praise

TO SERVE HIM
July—In Heart and Mind
August—In Life
September—In World

Now, perhaps you have a feeling of the direction that the Lord seems to be leading me. There is one thing that I would like to ask you; That is to pray for me as I write these programs. There is one thing that I would like to tell you; That you are very valuable, you are worth something to me or I would not have undertaken this work. Your ideas are valuable and your dislikes are also valuable. If you have suggestions for me, please say so. Here is my address: R.R. 4, Box 46, Cameron, W. Va. 26033. Thank You! God bless you.

Those Who Belong Are Free

Begin your meeting today by dividing the number in your group into two groups. Give the groups the names Mary (group 1) and Martha (group 2). Each group will need at least one Bible or more. They will need to select one person as secretary in each group to record the notes from the group discussion. Each group is to read the Bible passage Romans 8:1-16. As they read, Mary group will pick out the references to the kind of life a person can live when they follow after the Holy Spirit, or their New Nature. These should be listed on paper by the group secretary.

The Martha group should pick out the references to the life a person will live if they follow after their old nature, or lower nature. The group secretary will record these.

Allow ten minutes for this activity. Then, have the whole group come back together. Have the selected secretaries of each group read their findings from the group studies.

At this time, as the Holy Spirit leads you, there may be one or two, or more of you who would like to tell in two or three sentences why you chose to follow after the Holy Spirit. Allow about two to five minutes. (If there is no one who wishes to share personally with the group, then please read my own testimony to your group at this time.)

"Some people say that life begins at forty, but mine began when I was ten. I remember having a little Christian training before that time. My grandfather took me to church almost every Sunday. I don't remember my parents going to church very often, but something about the church kept pulling me there to the services. Even after my family moved and I no longer had my grandfather to take me to church, I went by myself.

When I was ten, I had several experiences that kept drawing me more and more to the church. One of these experiences was on the sidewalk halfway to church. It seemed that God himself was there beside me. When I knew how horrible my

life was and knew His splendour all around me I just had to give Him the keys to my life. I knew that I wanted His way in my life.

Since that time I can look back on my life and recognize that the choice I made then is still my choice today. I am glad that God is beside me. He has been all the way. He saw to it that I made it all the way through Nursing Education (I never thought I would make it—and I'm sure that without Him I would not have). His plan for my life has been fulfilled in giving me a Christian husband. (I didn't even know that as a Christian girl, I needed a Christian husband.) The births of our two sons have both been miracles. Our eldest is one of a set of triplets. He began his life with a weight of two pounds, seven ounces. His brother and sister both died. Why didn't he? God knows. Our second son was a gift from God when we never expected to have any other children.

I'm learning and growing more and more every day in knowing God better. He talks to me and shares with me all of my life, joys, sorrows, everything! I am glad that I chose to follow the way of the Holy Spirit in my life, as it says in Romans 8:6 "Following after the Holy Spirit leads to life and peace. . . ." I hope that you will also be glad of the choice you make about following after the Holy Spirit."

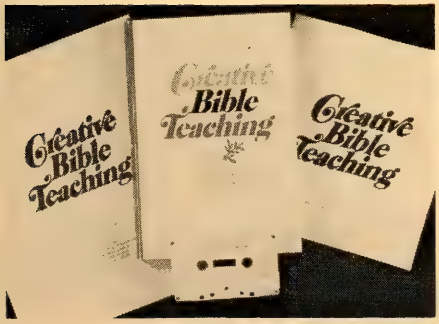
All of you should stand together now. As you stand hold hands in a circle. Close your eyes and concentrate on the Scripture from Matthew 18:20 where Jesus Christ says, "For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I will be right there among them."

Now, as our eyes are still closed begin to pray in your favorite way. (I suggest conversational prayer.)

Thoughts you may want to pray about: Thank you, Jesus for being here; Thank you, Jesus, for giving us a choice to follow after you; Help me to make that choice, today; Help me in my life, I've already made the choice, but now I need help to live it; I want to pray for NAME (friend, missionary, etc.)

Everyone join together in Sisterhood benediction at the finish of the prayer-sharing.

CREATIVE BIBLE TEACHING



A new and useful training program entitled "Creative Bible Teaching" program is now available from the Board of Christian Education. The course is designed to be used by either individuals or groups interested in improving their teaching skills.

"Creative Bible Teaching" is based on Lawrence O. Richards' book by the same title and was designed and field tested by Rev. James Fields, chairman of the training Commission. Each pack contains Richards' book (a $5.95 value), a C-60 Resource cassette and script, and a student's workbook. Additional workbooks, cassettes, and texts may be ordered individually.

Order Blank

Please send:

(1) Creative Bible Teaching Pack(s)
_____ @ $7.95*

(2) Resource Cassette(s)
_____ @ $2.95

(3) Richard's **Creative Bible Teaching**
_____ @ $5.95

(4) Workbooks
_____ @ $.35
_____ @ 10/$3.25

or

Send To: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

*All Prices Plus Shipping

"DISCOVERY" AND CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Were you there:
—when October Hill Campground discovered "Discovery?"
—when the Drama Seminar presented the choral reading "For Young Lovers?"
—when "Discovery" got a standing ovation and Fred got a teddy bear?
—when ONE gave their Concert?
—when "Big Red" appeared?
—when Dr. Howard Jones spoke?
—when Rev. Brian Moore led us in a truly beautiful and inspiring Communion?
—when we celebrated as a Body of Believers at Park Street?
—when we cried and said our good bye's?

Did you see:
—all the posters that not only kept you informed but also amused and brightened the campus?
—"Discovery?"
—each Crusader as they shared, spoke and sang during Crusader Review?
—the resurrected "Twelve?"
—a certain Southern Indiana boy turn bright red at the bottom of the big slide at Lake Silverstone?
—and feel all the love and fellowship around the Communion tables?
—Alleluia!"

Did you meet:
—Jim and Brenda Burke from Tucson, AZ (recreation & campfire leaders, lighting engineers, helpers)?
—Dr. Charles Munson from Ashland, OH (inspirational speaker at "Discovery 74")?
—Rev. Brian Moore from South Bend, IN (Bible Study & Communion leader)?
—Ken Van Duyne (our National BYC Moderator)?
—B.C.E. staff (multi-purpose people)?
—Blanche and Henry?

Have you heard:
—That the 1973-74 Budget ($8500) was not only met but EXCEEDED with total amount received to date being $11,280.16.
—That Nappanee BYC gave $1138.76—the largest single contribution?
—That Steve Barber is the new National BYC Moderator?
—That we adopted a budget of $9500 with a Collating Machine for the Brethren Publishing Company as a project?
—That BYC is beginning a new venture of faith —having year long Prayer Partners?
—That BYC membership registrations are due November 1?

Let's see . . . should we really register by November 1? Well, we just aren't very organized yet . . . and we haven't got much money in the treasury . . . and what if Sally comes and we've already sent in the list . . . why should we bother anyway? Oh well! We might as well.

Wow . . . it's a good thing we did. Just look at all this stuff we get and all we did was send our names and addresses and $1.00 per member. We each got:

(1) a BYC membership card and
(2) a year's subscription to the National BYC newspaper, THE MORNING STAR.

Our advisor received a new packet with all sorts of neat information like:
(1) a monthly calendar planner with all the important BYC deadlines & information
(2) 1973-74 Guideline/Statistic Report
(3) Helpful hints for the 1974-75 Guidelines
(4) Budget/Project information
(5) Success With Youth resource information
(6) BYC Prayer Partner explanation and
(7) more.

SPECIAL BYC AWARDS

The following Local and District BYC groups received the $10.00 Club award for their outstanding work in raising $10.00 or more per member for the 1974 National BYC Budget.

Church	$/member
Waterloo Combined	$50.00
Derby Combined	40.00
Nappanee Combined	39.27
Bryan Jr. High	38.18
Ardmore Sr. High	33.93
Dayton Hillcrest Combined	31.82
Bryan Sr. High	31.58
Vinco Sr. High	28.57
Elkhart Jr. High	25.00
Mexico Sr. High	22.22
Chandon Jr. High - Sr. High	16.06
Sarasota Combined	15.41
Goshen Jr. High - Sr. High	15.00
Gratis Combined	15.00
Washington Combined	14.33
Milledgeville Combined	14.29
Maurertown/St. Luke Sr. High	13.64
Smithville Sr. High	11.11
Linwood Combined	10.00
Fort Wayne Crestwood Combined	10.00
Pittsburgh Combined	10.00
District	
Central District	24.53
Assoc. District of Florida	15.14
Northern Indiana District	14.22

Each of the following Local and District BYC groups received the "Growth by Faith" awards for increasing their giving toward the 1974 National BYC Budget by 10% or more over 1973.

Church	% increase
Bryan Jr. High	950%
Hagerstown Combined	157%
Gratis Combined	140%
Elkhart Jr. High	125%
Washington Combined	101%
Bryan Sr. High	100%
Roann Combined	100%
Waterloo Combined	75%
Wayne Heights	60%
Ft. Wayne Crestwood Combined	37%
Nappanee Combined	36%

Chandon Jr. High - Sr. High	35%
Vinco Sr. High	20%
Southern Indiana District BYC Organization	20%
Sarasota Combined	18%
Brush Valley	13%
District	
Central District	86%
Northeast Ohio District	67%
Southeast District	45%
Southern Indiana District	33%

ICL SEMINAR — AUGUST '75

We are delighted to announce that the Eighty-Seventh General Conference of the Brethren Church will be launched by a special International Center for Learning Seminar. Sponsored by Gospel Light Publications, ICL is the training arm of our curriculum publisher.

Focusing on five divisions: Early childhood (birth to 5 years), Childhood (grades 1-6), Youth (grades 7-12), Adult (ages 18 and over), Administration (those in leadership), ICL seminars are designed to achieve ten specific objectives:

By the end of the 12 hour Seminar, you will . . .

1. Understand the age-level characteristics of your learners.
2. Know how to choose and use effective Bible learning activities in your classroom.
3. Understand your role in the teaching/learning process.
4. Be able to interact with your learners personally both in and outside of class.
5. Experience and be skilled in using new methods, resources and media.
6. Be able to formulate and use learning objectives.
7. Know how to plan and guide activities that increase Bible learning. If you are an administrator, you will . . .
8. Be able to recruit and administer a teaching staff.
9. Be prepared to design and implement an ongoing teacher training program.
10. Understand effective facility arrangements for current and future needs.

To achieve these objectives, each ICL Seminar offers intensive training in each of the five divisions. Within each division, instruction focuses on three basic subject areas:

—Age-level characteristics
—Methods and teaching skills
—Planning and organizing

Whatever your responsibility may be—superintendent, teacher, pastor, director of Christian education, Sunday school board member—an ICL Seminar will help meet your needs. Your church's entire Sunday school teacher/leader staff can be trained together in a unified, consistent plan for effective Bible teaching—all in a brief ICL Seminar.

Seminar leaders are age-level specialists who work in their own churches each Sunday. They are people who face the same kinds of problems and opportunities every other teacher faces.

Start planning now to enroll in the ICL Seminar, August 11-12, 1975 on the Ashland College campus. Further details regarding cost and scheduling will be published as available.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Darlene Moorehead, of the Muncie, Indiana Brethren Church was selected by the Board of Christian Education as Christian Educator of the year, 1974. Mrs. Moorehead has been involved in the Muncie church school, WMS, Vacation Bible School, BYC advisor, and many more activities.

Honorable mention in this year's program was given to Mrs. Ruth Finks of the Maurertown, VA Brethren Church and to Mrs. Fern Yarnick, of Vinco, PA.

TOP SUNDAY SCHOOL AWARD

The Jefferson Brethren Church, with a score of 94 points was honored as the top church school at the Wednesday, August 14 inspirational service at General Conference. We congratulate the Jefferson congregation on its fine work in 1973!

Other schools recognized were:

Church	Total Points
CLASS A	
Jefferson	94
Sarasota	91
Wayne Heights	90
CLASS B	
Vinco	87
Berlin	83
CLASS C	
Park Street	76
New Lebanon	73
Gretna	73
Meyersdale	72
West Alexandria	72
Brush Valley	71
Flora	71
Lanark	71
Milledgeville	71
Washington	70

SIGNAL LIGHTS PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

BIBLE THEME:

Friends

MISSION PROJECT:

Radio Programs and Literature for Spanish Speaking Americans

Bible Time: David and His Friend Jonathan

(Post on the bulletin board pictures of David and the sheep, David with King Saul, and David with Jonathan.)

David was a shepherd boy. All day he stayed with his father's sheep. He protected them from the wild animals. He led them to pastures of green grass and pools of clear water. When the sheep rested, David rested, too.

He often played on his small harp and sang. He sang about his sheep. He sang about the beautiful things he saw and heard. Most of all he sang about God's love and care.

King Saul heard of the shepherd boy who played the harp and sang so sweetly. He sent a messenger to David's father.

"The king wants your son David to come to the palace," said the messenger.

"He will return with you," said his father.

Another son was sent quickly to the field to watch the sheep. Soon David was traveling to the palace with the king's messenger.

How do you suppose he felt? (Give the children opportunity to express their opinions.)

Yes, I think he was excited. Perhaps he was a little frightened, too. He had never been to the palace before.

When they reached the palace David was taken to a large bedroom. Here he washed, put on clean clothes, and combed his hair. Then he picked up his harp and went into the hall. A servant led David to the throne room.

King Saul was sitting on the throne. Nearby was his son Jonathan.

"Play your harp and sing for me, David," said the king.

David sang of his sheep. He sang of the lovely things he had heard and seen. He sang of God's love and care. He sang for a long time.

When he stopped singing King Saul was smiling. "I want you to stay at the palace. I want you to sing for me everyday."

Then Prince Jonathan walked over to David. "I want you to be my friend," he said. "Here, put on this robe." He gave David his royal robe.

"And I want you to have this," he said as he handed David his bow. "Whenever you are in trouble I will help you."

"I am glad to have you for a friend," said David. "I will always be ready to help you, too."

The two boys never forgot their promise. They were always good friends.

—Based on I Samuel 16:17-20; 18:1-4

Memory Verse: Proverbs 17:17a

David and Jonathan were friends not just when they were having a good time but even in times of trouble. The Bible tells us this is being a real friend.

"A friend loveth at all times."

Mission Story: A Letter

Felipe is a teenager. He moved from his home in Mexico to Arizona to work on a ranch.

He had been there about two months when one day he was listening to the radio. He was listening to station KEVT, a Spanish station in Tucson.

As he listened the program "Reflexiones" came on. This is a five minute devotional program. At the close of the program listeners are invited to write for a free Bible course.

"I will write," decided Felipe. "I want to know more about this Jesus."

He turned the radio off and sat down at the table to write his letter.

The next day when Rev. Curtis went to check for mail, he took Felipe's letter from the box. This was the first response he had received from the radio broadcast.

"Praise the Lord," said Rev. Curtis. "Felipe is the first one to write for the Bible course. I'll not mail it to him. I'll take it to him!"

Rev. Curtis gathered up the materials, got in his car and drove to the ranch.

Felipe was watching for the mail. He was expecting to receive the promised literature. As he was wondering when it would come, Rev. Curtis drove up.

"Hello, Felipe. I'm Bill Curtis," he said (in Spanish, of course). "I'm from the broadcast 'Reflexiones.' I've brought the Bible study course you requested."

"You brought it?" asked Felipe. "You drove all the way out here just to bring it to me?"

"Yes," said Rev. Curtis. "I wanted to meet you. And if you would like I will help you with your Bible study."

"I would like that," answered Felipe.

So it was arranged for Rev. Curtis to visit Felipe in his home every Tuesday evening. He studied hard and asked many questions about God. He seemed to understand that Jesus came to be our Savior. He knew he should accept Jesus as his Lord, but the last time Rev. Curtis talked with him he wasn't quite ready to do it.

Then very suddenly one day Felipe left the ranch.

"I want to see my family," he decided. "I'm homesick. I'm going back to Mexico."

And he did.

Pray for Felipe. Pray that he will remember the things he learned in the Bible study. Pray that he will accept Jesus as his Savior.

Perhaps some day Rev. Curtis will receive another letter from Felipe. Perhaps this one will tell him that Jesus is Felipe's Savior, too.

(Remind the children that our Signal Lights offering will help to pay for the radio time for "Reflexiones" and to buy the literature offered the listeners.)

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

ASHLAND, Ohio—Freshmen and new students were welcomed to Ashland College in Ashland, Ohio, in a round of excitement these past weeks. Included in the events was a reception in Myers Convocation Center given by the faculty to enable new students to meet instructors and others in their major field as well as to acquaint them with administrators.



President and Mrs. Glenn L. Clayton visited with Martha Deardurff of Bellefontaine, Ohio, Bill Kerner of Roann, Ind., and Andy Macek of Richmond Hts., Ohio.

World Religious News in Review

WOMEN'S CRIMES INCREASE WITH LIBERATION SHIFT

NEW YORK (EP)—A sharp increase in the number of women involved in crime has been blamed on "a dark and unsuspected side of America's feminist movement."

Joyce Egginton writing in Chicago Today, said the crimes are turning from the victimless variety (such as prostitution, alcoholism and drug addiction) to the more violent, like burglary, assault and embezzlement.

"There is no doubt," Miss Egginton said, "that as educated American women are becoming more militant—in their attitudes on work, education, politics and sex—some of them are behaving more aggressively and sometimes the aggressions spill over into crime."

CONGREGATION REBOUNDS FROM LOSS OF AFGHAN CHURCH

KABUL, Afghanistan (EP)—A year after the $223,000 building housing the Community Christian Church of Kabul was destroyed by the government of Afghanistan, its parishioners are looking on the experience as having taught them a lesson.

Dr. J. Dudley Woodberry, who has been pastor of the 100-member congregation for the past year, said "With the benefit of a Monday-morning quarterback's hindsight, the building was obviously more ostentatious than was wise for the times."

In a recent interview, he reported that "the congregation's morale is good now. Initially, there was sadness and disappointment. But we know now that the church is not a building. It is people. We are a living church. We are experiencing this to a greater degree now that we have to be the church."

AMERICANS SPENT $3.1 MILLION HOURLY TO BUY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LAST YEAR

CLEVELAND (EP) — American consumers spent an average of more than $3.1 million an hour on alcoholic beverages last year, the promotion secretary of the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union reported here.

Addressing the 125-member executive committee of the organization prior to its centennial convention, Mrs. Herman Stanley cited statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

They indicate, she said, that the American public spent an all-time record $27.2 billion for alcoholic beverages in 1973. On the basis of 24 hours a day seven days a week, Mrs. Stanley added, the expenditure amounted to "the mind-boggling sum" of $3,107,305 every hour of the day.

WORLD'S POPULATION TOTALED 3.8 BILLION PERSONS LAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The world's population, focus of attention at the U.N. Population Conference in Bucharest, totaled 3.8 billion persons at the beginning of last year, according to estimates of the U.S. Census Bureau.

The largest concentrations of people are in Asia, divided in the latest report into three sections: East Asia, 970.1 million; South Asia, 781.2 million, and Southeast Asia, 302.5 million. Europe is the next largest area with 706.8 million people; then Africa (excluding Egypt), 337.2 million.

The Latin American mainland had a population of 277.1 million, and North America followed with 231.2 million. The Near East (including Egypt) had 156.2 million people, the Caribbean Islands 26.0 million, and Oceania 20.3 million.

Among individual nations, China had the largest 1973 estimated population with nearly 793 million. Other leading nations, in order, were: India, 596 million; Soviet Union, nearly 249 million; United States, 209 million; Indonesia, 128 million; Japan, nearly 107 million; and Brazil, nearly 102 million.

The Census Bureau report lists population totals for 203 nations or "national entities," in addition to the totals for continents and sub-continents.

PASTOR OF FINANCIALLY-STRAPPED CHURCH SUBMITS RECOVERY PLAN TO A COURT

LYNCHBURG, Va. (EP)—Dr. Jerry Falwell, pastor of the financially troubled Thomas Road Baptist Church here, has come up with a plan to pay the church's multi-million dollar debts while continuing to operate its extensive ministries.

The plan will be submitted for approval to U.S. District Court Judge James C. Turk, who appointed five prominent Lynchburg businessmen from outside the church's membership to oversee its financial affairs in Aug. 1972.

In a letter mailed to 3,000 creditors, Dr. Falwell commented, "We feel this plan is in the best interest of all creditors since the only way we can possibly pay back everyone is to continue to operate the total ministry."

Under the plan, the 13,000-member congregation will continue to pay current expenses, including debt interest, while deferring until June 30, 1975 payment of principal or interest on any debt incurred prior to Judge Turk's order.

An unaudited balance sheet that accompanied Dr. Falwell's letter showed a total debt of $5,152,000. It reported assets of $9,154,000 and liabilities of $14,303,000.

CONDITIONAL AMNESTY APPROVED BY CARL F. H. HENRY

ARLINGTON, Va. (EP)—Draft resisters and military deserters from the Vietnam war period should return to the U.S. neither as heroes nor as villains, according to Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, evangelical theologian.

The former editor of Christianity Today magazine believes, with President Ford, that conditional (earned) amnesty should be granted. And he agrees with a pentagon proposal that would require 18 months of alternate service.

Dr. Henry also feels that contrition, an acknowledgement of wrongdoing, is necessary, a position also held by U.S. Attorney General William B. Saxbe.

Dr. Henry said that if Mr. Nixon is spared a legal determination of guilt or innocence in Watergate on the grounds that he has "suffered" enough, it will be hard to insist on punishment for military defectors who insist on the moral rightness of their acts.

SEC ATTORNEY CAUTIONS CHURCHES ON THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

HOUSTON (EP)—An attorney for the Houston bureau of the federal Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) says the abuses he has seen in the church bond market may have been greater than in any other area of the financial securities market.

In an interview, James E. Sims declared that "many times churches issue bonds when they really don't have any business doing so." He urged prospective investors in church bonds to "investgate before you invest."

Mr. Sims, who has been with the SEC for 10 years, noted that bond sales are sometimes "the last resort" for churches that cannot qualify for loans from banks and mortgage companies.

Church bonds present a complex legal problem, he said, because they are exempt from some federal laws, but not exempt from others. Yet, the SEC attorney added, "the church bond market is the least regulated (area) of the securities market.

Under a provision of a 1933 law, church bonds are exempt from the SEC registration required of corporate and municipal bonds. But the anti-fraud section of that same law provides that all bonds must be sold with "full and complete disclosure" of the financial records of the organization selling the bonds.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS' FIND DATES BACK TO DAYS OF JESUS

TIBERIAS, Israel (EP)—A large city gate flanked by two round towers, which date back to the days of Jesus Christ, have been uncovered near here by a team of archaeologists.

Experts said the findings lent support to accounts that Tiberias, in the first Century of the Christian era, was the largest and most important city in the region.

The town was founded by Herod Antipas (AD 18-20) on the southwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, and named after Tiberias Caesar. The site had previously been used for a burying ground and was therefore considered "unclean" by the Jews.

CONGREGATIONAL AUTONOMY NEW ISSUE FOR SYNOD

ST. LOUIS (EP)—Congregational autonomy has become a new issue in the doctrinal controversy of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

It has been raised in a document issued by the faculty of "Seminex," Concordia Seminary in Exile. The document charges that the March 23 rulings of the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM), which said that Seminex graduates are not eligible for placement as Missouri Synod pastors, are flagrantly illegal, unconstitutional and unchristian."

The Seminex faculty argue that the CCM rulings "subvert the traditional relationship between the Synod and its member congregations," and maintain that Synodical Bylaw 4.01, upon which the CCM ruling was based, is unconstitutional.

The existence of two Missouri Synod seminaries in St. Louis, Concordia Seminary and Seminex, arose from the long-standing dispute over the doctrinal position of Concordia faculty.

SMOKING AMONG TEEN-AGE GIRLS UP

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The percentage of girls who smoke has almost caught up with the percentage of boys, says the National Clearinghouse for Smoking and Health following a survey of 2,553 young people.

15.8 per cent of boys aged 12 to 18, say they smoke regularly; 15.3 of the girls testify of the same addiction.

DEAD TEENAGER'S NOTE: 'DRUGS NO GOOD'

EVERETT, Wash. (EP)—A San Francisco teenager who hanged himself in the county jail here left behind a note stating: "Drugs are no good for you."

Arrested two days earlier for possession of marijuana, and 1,000 amphetamine tablets, in addition to a stolen credit card, the young man took his life after adding in his note:

"I'd like to tell all the kids that drugs are no good for you. It gets you in all kinds of trouble. I've been through a lot of it. First I started out on pot, then LSD, speed, downers and I got all messed up myself. Put this on the news and tell all the kids out there 'please.' Thank you."

The young addict wrote his father's name and telephone number on the note, asking that he be called "after I die."

The boy used a television lead-in wire to take his harried life.

Names in the News

Dave L. Hofer, owner and manager of Radio Station KRDU in Dinuba, Calif., is the new president of The Gideons International. Elected at the agency's mid-summer 75th anniversary convention in Washington, D.C., he heads an evangelistic association of Christian business and professional men in 100 countries, with 43,000 Gideon members and 16,000 auxiliary members.

Dr. Graffam Named "Layman of the Year"

Dr. Everett Graffam, executive vice-president of the World Relief Commission, was named 1974 Layman of the Year at the 32nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Boston last April.

This honor is of particular interest to us Brethren because the WRC is the agency through which we send our World Relief dollars to needy areas. Also, Dr. Graffam has visited our Conference on two occasions. I was privileged to be present, along with a few other Brethren, in Boston the night this award was made to a "surprised" Dr. Graffam.

NAE President Dr. Myron Boyd described Dr. Graffam as "a man who has given himself for others." In the past 7 years, he has covered close to a million miles coordinating the distribution of funds and millions of pounds of food, clothing, medicine and equipment for the operation of disaster relief, hospitals, clinics, day-care centers, and vocational training schools. During the year 1973 the total value amounted to over $4 million.

His interest in religious humanitarian work started in his home church in New Britain, Conn., which had a strong missions program. Scouting developed leadership as he became Scoutmaster and later formed a Sea Scout ship.

He has held several executive positions both in business and Christian higher education. Following that, he became executive head of the Evangelical Foundation of Philadelphia, after the death of Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse.

For his humanitarian work he has been cited by the government of both South Vietnam and Korea. He has been a guest at the White House on four occasions.



Dr. Graffam (right) as he received the Civil Merit Medal in Seoul in 1972 from Kim Long Pil, Prime Minister of South Korea..

Dr. and Mrs. Graffam, residents of King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, attend the First Presbyterian Church where he is an elder. They have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

General Conference "WORLD RELIEF" Highlights

(1) **FILM: "Africa—Dry Edge of Disaster:"** This 16mm, full color motion picture was shown on Monday evening in the Chapel to those not involved in Board and Committee meetings. A couple hundred were free to attend. It pictures the plight of the sub-Sahara people and their fight against extinction because of the 7 year drought. It was also shown on the front lawn of the Chapel after the Thursday evening program as people passed by and stopped to watch and hear.

This film is available for showing in your church at no charge. Just continue sending your World Relief offerings to Mr. George Kerlin. To order the film, write to:

WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION
Box 44
Valley Forge, Pa. 19481

It runs about 25 minutes.

(2) **BROCHURES:** Each Conference packet contained four printed brochures depicting and describing the work of the World Relief Commission. Others were distributed at other points throughout the week.

(3) **SOUP SUPPER:** Excellent involvement and giving this year. A total of 212 attended (29 more than last year) and the total giving this year, including donations, was $276. This brings the totals for the NINE YEARS we have had these meals at Conference to 1,817 total attendance and $2,032 raised (through sales and cash donations by those who can't attend). **Next year will be our Tenth Anniversary of involvement with WRC and the Soup Suppers.**

(4) **SEWING BOOKLETS:** A new "Brethren Sewing Guide" was published this summer and distributed at Conference (at least 2 per church). Others have since been mailed to churches, so that every church has a minimum of two. The booklet puts all our denomination's sewing opportunities under one cover with as complete information as possible about WORLD RELIEF, BRETHREN CARE/BRETHREN HOME, BRETHREN MISSIONS IN INDIA, and LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS. **Other copies are available from me for the asking.**

(5) **SEWING WORKSHOP:** The large air-conditioned room in the basement of the college library was ideal for setting up a display of completed items for many of the articles mentioned in the Sewing Booklet—displayed on tables and bulletin boards according to their categories. In addition, the room was open each afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 for anyone who wanted to stay awhile and work on some sewing. Several women did just that and had a good time, as well as accomplishing some sewing projects. Two sewing machines were in operation, articles were knitted (some by those who took yarn we provided and worked during sessions and other leisure moments), two quilts were knotted, and many other miscellaneous articles were started. The interest was good, the ladies enjoyed having a place like that to come when they had free time— and we plan to enlarge the idea and repeat it again next year.

(6) **FINANCIAL REPORT:** 1973 was a banner year for giving to World Relief in the Brethren Church . . . over $14,000. And the first six months of 1974 is starting off about the same way—with about $9,000 given by July 1st. Let's keep it up . . . so we might help that many more desperate people.

SPECIAL NOTE TO TREASURERS: Please be sure you have the right house number for our World Relief Committee Treasurer. Send all offerings to:

Mr. George Kerlin
1318 E. Douglas
Goshen, Indiana 46526

—Phil Lersch

MOVING TO NEW ADDRESS?

Please notify us at least

3 weeks in advance

Name of Subscriber (Please print or type)

No. and Street, Apt., Suite, P.O. Box or R.D. No.

Post Office, State, and ZIP Code

Date of Address Change

LAYMEN

ALIVE

The Laymen ALIVE training is now being shared with individual churches throughout the brotherhood. The training is based on the materials and methods which the Lord has given to Campus Crusade for Christ. This training is given by Rev. Arden E. Gilmer and deals with how these tools can be effectively used in the local church. This has been demonstrated through their use at the Pleasant View Brethren Church, Vandergrift, Pennsylvania where Rev. Gilmer is pastor.

The purpose of the training is to have **A**ll **L**aymen **I**mplementing **V**igorous **E**vangelism. The training deals with the basic and practical "how to's" of living and sharing the abundant live in Jesus Christ. How to effectively communicate your faith in Jesus Christ through tools designed for personal sharing of Christ is a vital part of this training program.

The training will be offered on the following dates at the following churches. If you live near one of these churches, make every effort to attend.

**October 24-26, 1974—at the Vinco, Pennsylvania Brethren Church.

**November 7-9, 1974—at the Brethren Church in Massillon, Ohio. People from the Brethren Churches in Akron, Louisville, North Georgetown, Smithville, and Canton should attend this seminar at Massillon.

**December 5-7, 1974—at the First Brethren Church, Newark, Ohio.

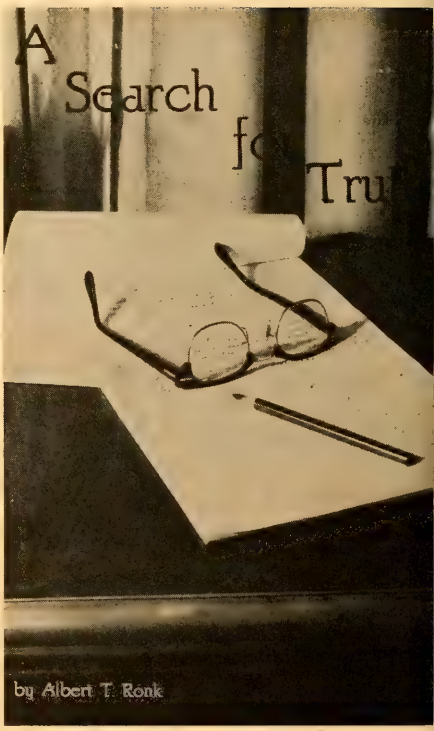
**February 19-22, 1975—at Hillcrest Brethren Church, Dayton, Ohio.

The week night sessions begin at 7:30 and last for two hours. The Saturday sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. and continued all day through 5:00 p.m. Contact the local pastors of the host churches for additional information. A registration fee will be charged each participant in order to cover the cost of training materials.

All Brethren are encouraged to take advantage of this training opportunity so that you will be better equipped to do the work and ministry of the Lord.

Ashland Theological Seminary
910 Center
Ashland, Ohio 44805





"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

This book was printed as a memorial volume in a limited edition by the Ronk family and the Book and Pamphlet Commission. It is available at the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstores in Ashland, Ohio and Plymouth, Indiana.

The price of this book is $1.00 plus 35¢ postage and handling charge.

Send for your copy to:

THE BRETHREN BOOKSTORE
524 College Avenue 110 West LaPorte Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805 or Plymouth, Indiana 46563

The Brethren EVANGELIST

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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

SHOUT AND REJOICE!

This is the heading of a news article received from the Evangelical Press Association pertaining to the Postal Bill just enacted into law and which favors EPA Publications such as THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST.

A letter from Russell T. Hitt, EPA's postal representative and to whom we would like to express our appreciation along with other EPA publications for keeping us abreast of the postal proceedings in Washington, D.C. states that member publications of the EPA will save an estimated $1,000,000 in postage in the next 12 months as a result of the signing into law of Postal Bill S.411.

Perhaps our shouting and rejoicing may not have as much fortissimo as publications with a much greater circulation, but we are very grateful for the assistance it will extend to our periodical in the fight against rising costs.

With the cost of paper increasing seemingly endlessly in addition to the uncertainty of supply this news at least gives your Publishing Company a chance to take a deep breath and give a sigh of relief with hopes that it may not be temporary.

Price increases seem to be a daily occurrence as we open each day's mail from various suppliers and we earnestly seek your continued prayer support in our efforts to provide the service we feel dedicated to do and yet stay off the "band wagon" that so many industries and businesses are climbing on in order to stay in business.



By the Way

WHAT IS ON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S MINDS?



One of the oldest cliches uttered so many times since the turn of the century and perhaps even before might be "What is the younger generation coming to?" It may seem that this question has been given more emphasis in the past ten years than during all the previous years of this twentieth century put together.

With this thought in mind I would like to share with you a very interesting bit of information that came to my attention recently in a report of a student opinion poll by Scholastic's National Institute.

I will not try to report on all the questions that were asked and reported on but wish to dwell on those which we who may have hung up our scholastic gloves for some time now may have some real concern about as citizens of this nation. We may also be in for quite a surprise to find out that a great number of our students are equally concerned about these issues.

These statistics were compiled from four separate polls conducted in 1973 and 1974. They will be designated as Poll No. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The first set of questions of Poll 1 dealt mainly with the news media and Watergate. I doubt if anyone is more eager to have the whole episode of this sordid mess, could it be possible, to be written into the annals of history in invisible ink, but it might create a bit more confidence in our future generation to get a few of their opinions on the matter.

Without making any differential as to the percentage of answers between the young ladies and gentlemen who answered the questions we will dwell on the majority as to opinions.

On the matter of feeling about the news media and its effect in the Watergate investigations, the majority felt that the publicity may have been bad for the U.S. in some ways, but also that it was necessary. Not to inform the populace about the wrongdoing in high political circles would have been worse.

Given a choice of questions such as the investigations causing many people to lose confidence in the executive branch of our federal government or the prestige of the U.S. being hurt around the world, action being delayed in getting on with more important matters, the consensus of opinion by most was that all of these possible harmful effects were worrisome.

Being presented with questions from the other side of the ledger pertaining to what effect it might have in making public officials and political parties re-evaluating their campaign strategies to keep them honest, the legislation of new laws to make such reforms in campaigning mandatory, making people more conscientious as to how they vote and how often and lastly the fact that our society will know that democracy really works, the majority of these young people agreed that all of these were most likely to benefit our country.

It seems that the answer given by the majority of the students as to the grade they would give the now former president may have been prophetic as he was given the lowest grade on the scale, F. All in all, their opinion of the chief executive was not very good as the next highest percentage graded him D.

One question in this poll dealt with price controls and here our future leaders and citizens presented the greatest percentage of opinion as not sure or no opinion. (This is understandable when our leaders of industry and labor and the economic advisors can't be sure about controls themselves).

The second poll taken was in the school year of 1973-74 and dealt with questions of an academic nature, the future and the problem of alcohol and drugs. Concerning the issue of whether everyone should have a right to a college education, nearly 100% (Factually 96%) said this right should be granted. Over 51% of them said they would like very much to have a college education and very few of the 80% of 60,000 students choosing to take part in the polls said they did not want such an education.

In regard to their own future, 80% said that it was in their own hands and it could be what they wanted it to be if they tried hard enough. (This should give us some ground of optimism to stand on in regard to our future citizens.)

The question was asked pertaining to preference as to working for men or women and 79% said that it depended on the person, not on the person's sex. As to equality of educational and career opportunities for boys and girls the majority felt that they were not quite equal (boys ahead) but almost.

The next item on the poll may come as a surprise since most reports on the issue deal negatively with it but almost ⅔ of the group felt that

smoking should be banned in most public places to protect non-smokers. (It seems that the warnings printed on cigarette packages are getting through to some people at least.)

The next question, "In general, do you think most people in your community respect teachers as much as they respect persons in most other professions?" may allow room for speculation when we see what the result was as to their answers. 34% said yes, 33% said no, the rest not sure. (Let it be noted that the question dealt with residents of the respective communities, not the students).

After reading some of the statistics and hearing them also from the news media about alcohol and drugs in our youth groups the next answer may very well puncture the mythical balloon that may have been blown up so unrealistically large.

Asked to give their opinion as to which problem of the two, alcohol and drugs was most serious, the majority felt that both were equally serious and all but 8% of the rest felt that drugs was the more serious problem. On the question as to whether laws should be enacted to require students to submit to drug tests, the YES group barely won over the NO group by 1%.

In February of this year, 74,562 students responded to poll No. 3 which dealt with the energy crisis problem, our armed forces, morals and questions of a civic nature.

77% were opposed to closing the schools for a month during the winter and letting them open a month longer during the summer to save fuel. (How would you answer this question if you were still a student? Think about it seriously.)

It was pointed out that Britain is cutting off television transmission at 10:30 P.M. to conserve energy and asked if they favored a similar cutback here. Guess what the result was.

The majority answered something in this manner: "Why not? That late in the evening it doesn't much matter to me." (It could be that when some of our younger generation are asked about certain late evening talk show hosts they may just ask, "Who's he?")

The next question may be of interest to the EPA agencies. As to letting up on the air pollution standards (For example, allowing use of air-polluting fuels in areas where they have been banned) the majority of these youngsters said NO. Even the next greatest majority that said YES added that it should only be on a temporary basis.

Evidently, something has put the next issue as a very low status with our young people, the issue of National Service since almost ⅔ felt that the nation has no right to require them to serve a period of time (one or two years, for example) in some government-sponsored service, military or some Peace Corp type service.

The majority claim that they do not plan to join any branch of the Armed Forces upon graduating from high school. As to the question of whether it came to choosing the Volunteer Army or Draft, volunteering was the choice of the majority and the next highest group that said the draft would be better added that the way it had been handled in the past, there were too many loop holes.

The next question should be directed to those who may be politically ambitious. It seems that the next voting generation is liable to do quite a bit of screening before they pull the curtain at the voting booth. Asked the question whether they think most public officials are dishonest in some way a very narrow margin of majority said, "Many, but not most." (48%), 40% said YES. (They say a new broom sweeps cleanest but that an old one knows where all the dirt is. Well, maybe these young people don't care what kind of a broom is used as long as the dirt disappears.)

As to one of the most exasperating and costly problems in our society today, that of shoplifting, asked what they would do if they found out one of their friends was shoplifting, which would they be most likely to do: 57% said they would try to talk the friend into stopping the habit, return stolen items or pay for them. Next in order were these feelings; Do nothing, telling the friends parents or talking to a teacher or counselor received the same amount of answers and telling the police about it fell into the lowest category, 3%.

The majority said they would not cheat at exams even if they believed they would not be caught. Therefore it would seem obvious that the answer to the question of cheating on taxes, (income taxes) would also receive the majority of YES answers as to this problem being a serious offense.

In the last poll, No. 4 conducted in March of 1974 a most interesting view was revealed in the question pertaining to the part of the ballot that asked those responding to declare whether they were a boy or girl. As might have been expected, some women had protested to the NISO that asking students to do this was wrong. Their argument was that this practice contributed to sex discrimination. Therefore the opinion on this issue was asked of the students. (Women's Libbers, hang on to your hats and don't stand up in the cars). 52% said they thought it to be useful and informative to know the difference between the boys' and girls' views or whether there really was any difference; 38% said that to them they didn't think it mattered one way or another.

The majority ruled when it came to deciding whether it was right for a boy to take courses such as sewing, cooking, taking care of babies and other household duties and for girls to study how to do woodworking, auto repair and others skills associated with jobs in trades. I was amused at the cartoon of the boy saying to his mother, "Mom, you sure you want me to clean up my room? Remember, I flunked sweeping and dusting!"

Getting back to the political field for a moment, upon being asked if they knew who their Congressman or Congresswoman was, the majority said "No, but I should know."

On the other hand, 69% said that if they did know and wrote to them, that they felt their letters would not be read or that what they had to say would seriously be considered, if at all.

As to future worries (Strange that all of us should have them when Scripture tells us not to be concerned for tomorrow) the majority were more concerned about the kind of job or career they would be able to obtain. As to money (the majority must have some knowledge of the Scrip-

tures), they quoted the New Testament passage of "The love of money is the root of all evil" coming closest to their own views.

We can have our personal feelings about polls as to whether they truly reveal a consensus of opinion or not but I am inclined to agree with the editorial in the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS that this is America speaking. . . . "That's the past, the present and the future of the country sounding off.

Americans have always faced new challenges and new dangers with courage, ingenuity and hard work. They can do it again. As in the past, They can change the course of history."

I am just wondering whether it might not be a pretty good idea to place a lot more confidence in our youth. The results of this poll seem to point out to me that they sure have confidence in themselves, so, come on, let's give them the support they deserve.

Who knows? Maybe the poll is a bit like the definition someone once gave: "An INCINERATOR is a person who hints bad things instead of coming right out and telling you." (G.S.)

MSSA

WORLD'S LARGEST SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION CONVENES IN NOVEMBER

COBO HALL, Detroit's great convention center, will become headquarters November 7-9, 1974 for the 29th annual MID-AMERICA SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION with 50,000 delegates attending from 50 States and denominations. This proves that the day of big Sunday School Conventions is not past.

Convention delegates are offered 175 varied workshops. Christian Educators may attend an all-day Seminar on Thursday featuring Dr. Gene Getz, Dallas, Texas; and Dr. G. Peterson, Deerfield, Illinois. MASSA's "EXHIBIT CITY" with over 200 exhibitors introduces up-to-date methods and materials.

The seven **free** GENERAL SESSION headline speakers are: Astronaut Colonel James Irwin, Colorado Springs, CO; Hal Lindsay, author of best seller, "Late Great Planet Earth," California; Dr. Ray Hughes, Cleveland, TN; Dr. Elmer Towns, Savannah, GA; Mel Johnson, "Tips for Teens" broadcast; Dr. Joseph Brown, outstanding Black preacher; Harry Bollback, "Word of Life, Schroon Lake, New York.

All-day Saturday TEEN EMPHASIS presents 4 hours of Teen workshops with popular youth speakers: Mel Johnson, Minnesota; Dr. Charles Roost, Michigan; Don Engram, Ohio; Duane Cuthbertson, Michigan. . . . 1:00-5:00 p.m. PLUS A GIANT 7:00 p.m. YOUTH RALLY.

Dr. Elmer Towns, Sunday School Research Institute, will present special banner awards to the fastest growing Sunday Schools from all 50 States across America. CHRISTIAN LIFE MAGAZINE will supply the 50 award banners on Thursday night . . . another FIRST for MASSA.

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DR. JOSEPH BROWN





COL. JAMES B. IRWIN

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★ The Aqqua Singers, Cypress, Fla.
★ 'BIG' John Hill, Fort Worth, Texas
★ The Celebration Singers, Marion, Ind.
★ Chuck Ohman, Trumpeter, Detroit
★ Larry Whiteford, Niles, Mich.
★ 1200 Voice MASSA Children's Choir

50,000 from 40 States & Canada
attended '73 Convention!

MID-AMERICA
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION
17761 Grand River Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48227

Please send me details and Pre-Registration information for your 1974 Sunday School Convention.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip.

BC NEWS

Dear Reader,

In an effort to make new ideas in Christian education and youth work available to Brethren people, the Board of Christian Education developed a periodical known as "BCE NEWS" which was sent to pastors, BYC advisors and superintendents. The constant change in local church personnel and the desire to reach more teachers have led us to try a new approach. Thus, for a trial period, "BCE News" will be included in THE EVANGELIST.

We are pleased to welcome the EVANGELIST *readers and invite your comments. Our first issue emphasizes church growth. Let's grow together!*

Frederick Burkey

SPROUTING CHURCHES

by Joan Hamel

Bryan, Ohio is one of the pilot churches for the church growth program. This summer I was an intern in Bryan teaching from the book, **How to Grow a Church,,** by Win Arn and Donald McGavran. Dr. Arn was in Bryan September 17-19 helping the church set goals in preparation for really beginning to grow in God's power. These are some of the conclusions I reached about church growth in the Brethren Church.

1. The Need for Repentance—The statistics for the Brethren Church are really upsetting. In the past fourteen years we've been gaining an average of 977.64 members a year—and losing 1126.35. But maybe we **should** be upset. Check out Isaiah 6:1-8. When Isaiah saw the Lord, his first words were, "Woe is me, for I am ruined. It was only after he was forgiven that he could say, "Here am I. Send me!" Let's ask God to forgive us for what we haven't done.

2. The Need for Enthusiasm—Do you realize what it is we're pushing? The God who made the entire universe is within us: loving us, forgiving us, changing us! And we're keeping quiet about it, while our friends are dying inside? When Peter and John were ordered to stop speaking about Christ, they said, "We cannot stop speaking what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Just tell your friends what He's done for you.

3. The Need for Unity—Let's stop talking about why don't "they" do something. Let's talk about "me," and let's start loving all the "they's." **How to Grow a Church** stresses working together as a church toward goals everybody has helped to set. That's why the BYC goals are different this year. A group should work together and pray hard to set its goals. Then it should look at ways of reaching them. Each person should try to find out what his gifts are and where God wants him to fit in.

4. The Need for Prayer—One thing I've found very helpful is the idea of faith-sized prayer (from **Prayer, Conversing With God** by Rosalind Rinker). Try praying **in faith** for something small at first. Maybe you should pray that God will make a friend ask questions about Christianity, **then** that the friend will come to church with you, **then** that God will show him he needs something more, **then** that he will accept Christ. Probably the best way of witnessing I know is to select three or four friends you feel God wants you to talk to and pray for them every day.

Growing a church is impossible—except when God does it. We probably won't get repentance or enthusiasm or unity or a lot of new Christians unless we ask for them. But if we ask, really ask—believing, then God's power will explode around us. God wants His Church to grow. And "if God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31)

Here are some books that might be helpful to you:

How to Grow a Church by Donald McGavran and Win Arn, G/L. A good introduction to church growth.

Body Life by Ray Stedman, G/L. This is helpful for understanding the gifts and related things.

Prayer: Conversing With God by Rosalind Rinker, Zondervan. The ideas about prayer have been very helpful to me.

How to Give Away Your Faith by Paul Little, Inter-Varsity. Contains very good material on a lot of things—from questions non-Christians ask to help for your devotions.

GROWTH BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following Church Growth Bibliography is supplied by Dr. Win Arn who is working with a number of Brethren Congregations in pilot church growth programs.

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Wagner, C. P., **STOP THE WORLD — I WANT TO GET ON,** Regal, 1974.
Tippett, A., **CHURCH GROWTH AND THE WORD OF GOD,** Eerdmans, 1970.

*'s indicate various classifications of Church Growth books.

CHURCH GROWTH BULLETIN

Be in the know about church growth in the U.S.A. and around the world, order the "Church Growth Bulletin," edited by Dr. Donald McGavran of the Institute of Church Growth, Fuller Theological Seminary, c/o Overseas Crusades, Inc., 3303 Scott Blvd., Santa Clara, CA 95050. Published bi-monthly, the bulletin subscription is $1.00/year. Order now!

ICL—COMING SOON

The 87th General Conference will be developed around the theme "Let the Church Grow." How fitting that arrangements are being completed to bring an International Center for Learning (ICL) Seminar to the assembled Brethren! There is no better way to help teachers and superintendents lay hold of key concepts in Christian education. Led by top flight practitioners (not theorists!), ICL deals with the real-life problems of Churches. Mark August 11 and 12, 1975 now on your calendars . . . they may be the most important dates in your church year!

FAMILY LIFE TODAY

Ken Gangel in his book **The Family First** (HIS International: Minneapolis, 1972), asserts in the first line: "The family is in trouble." Even Christians are having a rough time coping with the problems that face contemporary families.

In response to these felt needs, Gospel Light Publications is introducing a new periodical "Family Life Today." Designed as a monthly magazine for Christian families, "Family Life Today" should be ordered with your regular G/L church school materials. Individual subscriptions are available (12 issues @ $7.25/year) but quarterly orders are preferable (5 or more quarterly sets to one address: 50¢/month each. ($1.50/quarter).

SUGGESTIONS: Churches should consider ordering a subscription for each family unit affiliated with the church. Regular members could pick theirs up in church school; those irregular in attendance could be given their copy by mail or better still **by a home visitor.**

For more information write or call the BCE or Brethren Bookstore.

BYC ADVISOR'S PACKS

All BYC groups are urged to register as early as possible with the BCE office. Forms have been sent and returns are beginning to come in. Every advisor will be receiving a calendar/planner which has information about many aspects of the local, district, and national BYC program. Also, **Morning Star,** the official BYC newspaper will be sent to every advisor and registered member. It is important to get an early start on the revised BYC Guidelines and project.

IDEAS FOR YOUR YOUTH GROUP

Write the BCE office for information on Success With Youth materials, "DO IT BOOKS," and Omega Options. Lots of great "stuff" for youth, primaries through high school. Free "Seed Catalogues" listing resources for youth ministry will be sent upon request.

NEW BOOKS

1. WESLEY HAYSTEAD, **You Can't Begin Too Soon,** Glendale, CA: Regal, 1974. Biblical and educational insights for parents of small children. An excellent companion to the ICL manuals. Cost $2.25.
2. **Teaching Techniques,** newly revised E.T.T.A. Text and teaching Helps. Improved from earlier editions. Cost: $2.60 each for text and manual.
3. KENNETH GANGEL, **24 Ways to Improve Your Teaching,** Wheaton: Scripture Press (Victor), 1974. An excellent paperback resource. Cost $1.95.

"DO ADULTS REALLY LEARN"

And so we come to the general conclusion the old dog can learn new tricks but the answer is not a direct and simple one. It appears that the old dog is reluctant to learn new tricks. He is less likely to gamble on the results, particularly when he is not convinced that the new trick is any better than the old tricks, which served him so well in the past. He may not learn the new trick as rapidly as he did in the past, but learn it he does. Further, the best evidence seems to indicate that if he starts out as a clever young pup, he is very likely to end up as a wise old hound.

—Ledford J. Bischof, **Adult Psychology**

NATIONAL INTERFAITH COALITION ON AGING

by Beverly Summy
Benevolent Board

Dorman Ronk, Executive Secretary of The Benevolent Board, has attended several meetings sponsored by NICA, a relatively new organization in the field of gerontology.

What Is The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging?

The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging is a non-profit corporation of national level representatives from Roman Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Orthodox faiths and several associate organizations and agencies concerned with older Americans. Now in its second year of service, NICA grew out of a conference held in 1972 to make a vital response to the 1971 White House Conference on Aging.

Primary objectives of the Coalition are:

—TO IDENTIFY and give priority to those programs and services for the aging which best may be implemented through the resources of the nation's religious sector.

—TO VITALIZE and develop the role of the Church and Synagogue with respect to their responsibilities in improving the quality of life for the aging.

—TO STIMULATE cooperative and coordinated action between the nation's religious sector and national secular private and public organizations and agencies whose programs and services relate to the welfare and dignity of aging people.

—TO ENCOURAGE the aging to continue giving to society from the wealth of their experiences and to remain active participants in community life.

Membership in NICA is open to delegated representatives of major religious bodies, agencies, divisions or organizations who carry national or organizational wide portfolios.

The National Interfaith Coalition on Aging is an expression of its members' commitment and investment in improving the quality of life for the aging throughout the nation. The **Coalition** seeks to provide a medium whereby the beliefs and values of its members may be actualized in the identification of the needs of older Americans, of the role of the religious sector in meeting those needs as well as establishing an attitudinal climate that will encourage the older person to retain or achieve participation in community life. Respecting the rich diversity of its membership, the **Coalition** believes that common spiritual and human concern with the aging person benefits from an ecumenical approach to his role in the community. The **Coalition** recognizes that the religious sector which its membership represents has a special commitment to the psycho-spiritual dimension of aging, which seeks the activation of the individual, the humanization of technology and the recognition of a Divine rather than a material criterion for assessing human worth.

The **Coalition** intends to provide data and information that will enable it to:

1) Describe what services to the elderly its members are providing,
2) Identify the uniquely positive features of these services so they may be used by others concerned with programs for the aged,
3) Identify the gaps in program and service for the elderly and discover the measures most likely to close them,
4) Devise educational and training programs that may be offered to members in their own programs for the aging and,
5) To provide the medium whereby common planning and programming for the aging by the religious sector may benefit from interchange at the level of service policy and practice.

The **Coalition** is committed to the autonomy and integrity of its constituent membership and eschews any form of public funding that 1) supports specifically sectarian activities or 2) limits the freedom of the religious sector or the philosophy and policy of that sectors' delivery of service to the aging.

General objectives of the Survey of Aging Pro-

grams Under Religious Auspices by the Coalition are:

1. To discover in the religious sector what needs among retired and aging people are being identified and met; the methods and philosophies of service delivery involved; and the effectiveness of programs within the total needs of aging persons.
2. To relate White House Conference on Aging recommendations to the way religious bodies themselves understand their mission regarding aging, retirement, and death.
3. To examine the direction and trends in new programs, both public and prviate, as they relate to older populations served by Church and Synagogue.
4. To identify the image of the older persons implicit in current activities and priorities of religious institutions as reported in the projected survey.
5. To furnish data to help religious bodies to assess their priorities on behalf of the Older American.
6. To identify the range of alternatives, programs, activities and services for Older Americans—actual or potential—in the religious sector.
7. To identify, both denominationally and ecumenically, the best in program projection as it emerges in research.
8. To provide the research base for increased effectiveness in education and training for services for and by elderly people in existing religious educational institutions and to assist in planning for experimental training modules shaped by research findings.

The Benevolent Board will be cooperating in this effort as it conducts a survey throughout all Brethren Churches in the near future.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, teach me to read what is written in another's face.
Enable me to catch the undertones of fear or hope that is in the human voice.

Make me sensitive to the need that is expressed only in the wordless quiet of another soul.

Keep me aware of moods, positions of the hands, all these small things by which people reveal themselves.

May I always carry some other person's concern alongside my own, fuse a comrade's happiness continually with mine.

May the struggles and aspirations of growing persons be ever with me.

Preserve the friendliness of my soul.

from The Truth

OCTOBER



MISSIONARY NEWS

GOD'S MIRACLE BROUGHT ME TO STATES

by David Loi

During my days of studying at the Methodist Theological College (1965-1968), I was already thinking of the possibility of going overseas to have further study. I believed and trusted that one day God might open the way for me. When some of my friends knew of my thoughts, they said that I was just dreaming; they mocked me. They seemed to think it was an impossibility for me to go overseas to study. But I prayed to God and in faith, I applied to many seminaries in Africa, Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan and the United States. All replies indicated there were no scholarships available except for one offer from Australia for a scholarship for the year 1970. Rather than waiting for that time to come about, I again contacted some seminaries in the United States again. My pastor of my high school days, Reverend Tiong Hung Ling, gave me eight seminaries to contact and I prayerfully wrote to each one of them. I firmly believed that God would do something for me.

I received seven letters in reply—one right after another—which offered either no scholarship or very little scholarship. The scholarship was needed for meeting the requirements for applying for the U.S. visa. THEN—on March 25, 1970, I received a letter from Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, then Dean of Ashland Theological Seminary, as follows: "Greetings and best wishes to you and yours! I am pleased to inform you that the faculty has accepted your application to Ashland Theological Seminary. . . . I am also pleased to report that our financial aid officer has awarded you a scholarship. This scholarship includes tuition and housing and we will also provide you with a meal ticket for a period of time until you become settled and adjusted. . . ." I was so pleased and excited; it was so wonderful that God had answered my prayer. It was the First Brethren Church of South Bend, Indiana who provided the scholarship. **". . . The church committed themselves to the support of David Loi, who is from East Malaysia as a ministerial student in Ashland Theological Seminary. It will cost $2,000 for a full year's support and our missionary committee believes all classes, laymen, etc. can meet this. Since Kumar's support was very well invested, why not support another worthy student?" (THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST, January 2, 1971, p. 13.)**

I thanked God for opening the way for admission and scholarship. However, now I also needed the air tickets and my family could not provide them for me. I prayed to God and He really heard my prayer. At first when I met Reverend Wen Tsung Lin, who was my high school principal, I told him about my plan to study for the ministry and the scholarship at Ashland Theological Seminary and that I needed to borrow money for my air tickets. At that time he said he would loan me the $500.00 with interest; then later he said he would lend the money to me interest-free. On August 10, 1970,, when it was time to buy the tickets, I went to his house for the money. As I entered his front door, I could see him going into his bedroom and shutting the loor; listening quietly, I could tell that he was praying. When he came out he gave me the money wrapped in red paper and said, "This is God's money that I am giving to you. You are responsible only to God." On the paper he wrote, "Brother Loi, may God bless you. May your life glorify God. Peace be with you. Wen Tsung Lin, August 10, 1970." It was God's spirit working in his heart that changed the money from a loan to a gift.

On August 13, I left my home town of Sibu. Nine days later a twenty-four hour curfew was established for political reasons that lasted for seventy days. I thank God for aiding my departure prior to the curfew or I might not have been able to come to the States to study.

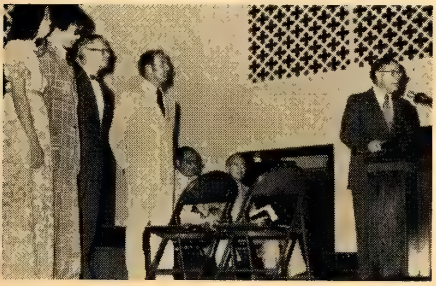
On August 17, I went to the American Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, to apply for the U.S. visa. Most of the students had to take the written and oral examination, but I only had three minutes of interview with the U.S. Counsellor. God helped me to get the U.S. visa so easily.

I was supposed to leave Kuala Lumpur on August 20 but the flight was postponed six times. By the time the flight departed on September 4, I had out of necessity spent quite a lot of money, but God gave me the opportunity to preach in three churches and their love offering amounted to $40.00 for my expenses in Kuala Lumpur.

On September 5 there was another delay at Stavanger Airport in Norway. The Inter-Asia Agency was responsible to take all passengers from Kuala Lumpur to London and ferry passage was provided which required a two day wait in Stavanger. However, three of us would not be allowed in Stavanger due to our not having English visas. I was one of these. Before sending us back to our countries, they placed a long distance phone call to London asking if the three of us

could enter England without visas. I was afraid and turned to God in prayer. They advised that we could go but it would have to be by air and that would cost us $68.00 for tickets and I had only a little money left. I prayed to God again and it was then that an agent paid for the tickets for us.

Sunday we left Stavenger for London and stopped at Amsterdam, Holland and had to confirm our tickets there. Upon confirmation of my ticket, I left it laying on the desk and went to another office to inquire about going directly to the United States from Amsterdam. I was disappointed by not being allowed to and when I returned to pick up my ticket, it had disappeared.



Dave and Jenny Loi with members of the Missionary Board at the consecration service during General Conference.

How frightening! Then I found my ticket but the baggage checks were gone. This was even more frightening!! Without my bags which contained my physical documents, I would not be allowed to enter the United States. Each time in these frightening events, I turned to God in concentrated prayer and He answered my prayers and when I got to London my baggage was already there. With all my delays enroute I had avoided hijacks of certain air flights, too.

On September 12, 1970 I entered the United States and the next day I arrived at the Ashland Theological Seminary.

Thanks to the Lord for His guidance during the past four years, I have completed my seminary training and shall be going back to Penang, Malaysia to be a missionary among the Chinese people.

As David closed his training at Ashland Theological Seminary, the South Bend and other neighboring Indiana churches felt led to offer their support for David and Jenny to return to Malaysia as national missionaries under the Brethren Church. Upon their request, the national Missionary Board has accepted their commitment of support and agreed to supervise and administer this young couples work in evangelization in Malaysia towards the possibility of a continuing ministry and a new field of missionary outreach in this country.

GOD PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY

by Jenny Ha

I was born to a poor family and my father passed away when I was five years old, leaving my mother with six children. I am the third child of our family. At that time my mother was a housekeeper at the Ing Hua School where Mr. Pilley, the founder of the Methodist Children's Home, was teaching. She saw my mother's need and offered the opportunities of the Methodist Children's Home. I was chosen to go for my mother wanted my elder sister to stay to assist at home and my older brother was not eligible since this was a home for girls, and the others were too young to leave home.

I am thankful to God for the opportunity to go to the Children's Home. This was a stepping-stone to the local Methodist School where I received my education through high school. I also had the joy of receiving religious teachings and that is how I came to know our Saviour Jesus Christ.

When I completed high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do but I had an ambition to go overseas. I was offered a job to teach but refused it and stayed at home one year doing housework, for I felt I could never teach.

In 1968, David Loi, my boy friend, now my fiance, asked me to do nursing. When asked why he said he preaches the gospel to save the souls and I could help the physically sick. I thought it was a good idea and decided I should take nursing; but how? I didn't have enough money and my mother certainly could not afford it. I prayed to God that I might have a chance to go to England and study nursing.

I told Reverend Wen Tsung Lin about my ambition. He was the supervisor of the Methodist Children's Home during the years I was there. He helped me to apply for nurses training and I was accepted by the Southampton General Hospital, Southampton, England in September, 1969. Rev. Lin then took me to see the committee members of the Methodist Children's Home to ask for help. They each contributed some money to pay for my fare to England and Reverend Lin himself also contributed some. My sponsor, Miss Edith Christy of Florida, also gave me a goodly sum. Thanks to the Lord, they were all so kind to me and made it possible for me to go to England for nursing and midwifery training.

Praise to the Lord for He has been wonderful to me; He guided me during the past five years when I was in England. He comforted me when I was in despair and He strengthened me when I was weak. He helped me through all the difficulties during my training. Thank God that I have completed my General and Midwifery training. Now it is the time for me to join with David to go back to Penang, Malaysia to serve the Lord. We need your prayers.

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT

A Home Mission Ministry in St. Petersburg, Florida
Reporters
Phil & Jean Lersch
Bonnie Montee

P.S. TO SUMMER WORKSHOPS' REPORTS

General Conference closed a week ago.

The kids in our neighborhood started back to school today (August 26th).

Summer is over!

And now that Bonnie, Jean and I are back home to Brethren House we can take a closer look at the hurriedly-recorded notes from our Workshop tour in 7 Brethren Churches. Thought the statistics might be of interest to you, particularly because many of you in Indiana and northern Ohio were deeply involved during our visits.

After arriving in the north from Florida, we traveled 1500 miles between and during the Workshops in the 7 churches—more than we anticipated when planning. Amazing how the miles add up. But the voluntary offerings were adequate to cover those travel expenses, plus some extra for materials consumed and the purchase of some items we will need here at Brethren House this Fall. —

There were a total of 15 sessions in all, with an average attendance of 36. This was encouraging to us, especially when you realize that each session was 2½ hours in length and required some genuine involvement by those who came to both sessions in each church.

The 25 Brethren Churches represented were:

Goshen	Bryan
Nappanee	Winding Waters
Jefferson	Elkhart
New Paris	South Bend
Teegarden	Ardmore
County Line	Louisville
Cerro Gordo	North Georgetown
Peru	Canton
Tiosa	Massillon
Loree	Ashland Park Street
Kokomo	Smithville
Corinth	Newark
	Ashland Garber

I list these churches so that any of you desiring more information about Children's Learning Centers and their operation might want to contact someone from these congregations for mutual sharing of ideas—at least as far as the Brethren House experience and Workshops are concerned.

In addition, there were several non-Brethren participants in the Workshops at each location. Those communions represented were Methodist, Free Methodist, Christian, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Mennonite, Church of Christ—some from the local communities and others driving many miles to be present.

Although no plans are definite, it is hoped that some time during the next year we might be able to visit other areas of Brethren Churches—if there is interest in having us come!

UPON OUR RETURN



"When will Brethren House be open again?" is the most frequently asked question from the neighborhood children as they stop by and observe us getting things back in shape once again. So, the day after Labor Day we will begin the 6th year of our weekday, after-school program two days per week . . . along with Monday night for the teens. The kids are as excited about getting back together after the summer as are we.

Partially because of the encouragement of several of you we talked with at the Workshops, along with our own desire to share whatever we can with as many as possible, we're devoting some time this Fall to exploring every possibility of printing some of the Brethren House materials and establishing procedures for marketing. If successful, this will also provide a means of income in our attempt to become more self-supporting in the near future. We'll keep you posted on all these developments. May even ask you to buy something!

—Phil

CONCEPTS OF EVANGELISM HAVE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS

by C. Peter Wagner



Mission leaders are aware that contemporary attitudes toward evangelism are currently undergoing some very basic changes. Furthermore, these changes will undoubtedly become more and more prominent in the decade to come. They flow indirectly from two streams of evangelism that have gained significance since World War II, and which are continuing in varying degrees today. As a background for analyzing today's changing mood of evangelism, then, we need to go back to the two streams of the past.

CRUSADE EVANGELISM

The name most frequently associated with crusade evangelism as it gained force during the 1950's, was Billy Graham. His widely-publicized Los Angeles tent meeting revival of 1949 set the style for the future development of crusade evangelism. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association was formed the following year as requests for evangelistic crusades poured in from all over the nation. City-wide transdenominational committees organized the crusades on the local level. Advertising agencies, radio and television, motion pictures, book publishing and "Decision" magazine were all marshalled to produce the greatest possible impact for the evangelistic crusade. It was usually held in some large public meeting place, and attendance figures climbed to unprecedented levels.

Graham's own personal integrity combined with his clear articulation of biblical principles from every platform he could gain led observers to conclude that his style of crusade evangelism, ipso facto, **must** be an effective instrument for bringing people to Christ. It was simply regarded as **the** way to evangelize.

Like many American products, crusade evangelism was widely exported and many missionaries spent considerable effort in teaching nationals how to do it. Some missions even began billing their own favorite national evangelist as "the Billy Graham of Mamba Bamba," or what have you. However, much sooner than in America, evangelicals in the Third World started asking some hard questions about crusade evangelism. The hardest one involved what I call the "follow-up gap." While every crusade seemed to produce a healthy number of **decisions,** it was not certain that it had helped produce a proportionate number of **disciples.** General observation and some research began to indicate that crusade evangelism might really not be a very effective tool at all in bringing unbelievers to Christ and into responsible membership in the local churches.

The defense was typically, "The problem is not with the **evangelism,** but with the **follow-up.** Our evangelist does his job well, but the pastors are not doing their follow-up job after the evangelist leaves." Throwing the blame on followup satisfied some people, but not all. One of the dissatisfied individuals who first began asking the hard questions about crusade evangelism was Kenneth Strachan of the Latin America Mission. His questions led to the second stream of post-war evangelism.

SATURATION EVANGELISM

When Kenneth Strachan began questioning crusade evangelism in the late 1950's, he knew what he was dealing with. His father, Harry Strachan, had for years been considered as one of the top crusade evangelists all through Latin America. Kenneth Strachan was realistic. He was not content with great activity, inter-national celebrities, costly budgets, huge crowds and widespread publicity—unless they were really and truly helping to make disciples. So without calling it that, Strachan went to work on the follow-up gap.

Strachan's studies led him to conclude that the basic defect of crusade evangelism was in the area of mobilization. Crusade evangelism depended too much on the outside evangelist and not enough on the man in the pew. The key had to be mobilizing the laymen of the church for effective evangelism. But in order to mobilize the laymen, the pastors and other leaders had to be mobilized first. This could not be done properly in a week or a month. So Strachan designed a year-long evangelistic effort called Evangelism-in-Depth, and trained a team from his Latin America Mission to execute it.

While the crusade evangelism stream continued flowing strongly in America during the 1960's, even spilling over into Great Britain and Europe, the new stream was beginning in Latin America. As a result of the publicity from the pioneer

Nicaragua effort of 1960, requests poured in from other republics in Latin America, then quickly from Africa and Asia as well. Someone came up with the label "saturation evangelism," and it stuck. Perhaps this second stream of evangelism crested at a top-level international consultation on saturation evangelism held in Leysin, Switzerland, in 1969. The consultation was chaired by George Peters, who had just authored a book entitled Saturation Evangelism.

By the time of the Leysin consultation, another group of researchers had begun asking some of the same questions about saturation evangelism that Kenneth Strachan had asked about crusade evangelism a decade previously. Study after study showed that, despite strenuous efforts to avoid it, the follow-up gap was still present. Of course, thousands of individuals testify to their conversion through crusade and saturation evangelism efforts, and for this all thoughtful Christians are deeply grateful. But one step further that the individual cases is overall evangelistic strategy. Careful research on several Latin American republics could not come up with any cause and effect relationship between year-long Evangelism-in-Depth efforts and increased rates of growth in the churches. In fact, some indicated that just the opposite might be the case. Prominent among this new group of inquisitive people were disciples of Donald McGavran, who by then was becoming recognized as the father of the third major stream of evangelism.

BODY EVANGELISM

Unlike Billy Graham and Kenneth Strachan, Donald McGavran did not organize an evangelistic association or a missionary team. He instead organized a school and a research center. He called it the Institute of Church Growth, purposely avoiding the word "evangelism" because in his opinion the term had been watered down, twisted and redefined so much by well-meaning people that it was meaningless. He coined the phrase "church growth," made it a technical term, and determined to fill it with the meaning he thought it should carry.

In order to fit this into the historical sequence I have been describing, I would like to resurrect the word "evangelism," but modify it by the adjective "body." "Body evangelism," thus, describes the third major post- World War II stream of evangelism. — —

Notice the subtle shift in terminology. The adjectives "crusade" and "saturation" stress **methods,** whereas "body" places the emphasis on the **goal.** The goal is nothing short of the growth of the body of Christ.

Do not confuse the new term "body evangelism" with a similar term coined some years ago by Pastor Ray Stedman, "body life." They go together, but in sequence. **Body evangelism** stresses winning people from the world, baptizing them into the body (Matthew 28:19-20). **Body life** stresses developing the spiritual gifts once they are members of the body. Both are vitally important. One is evangelism, one is Christian nurture.

McGavran, like Strachan, could not be content with evangelistic activities that **should** make disciples, but **don't.** He was goal-oriented to the core. He dealt with principles, not methods. Methods were accepted or rejected by McGavran on the basis of what he called "fierce pragmatism." Research became his chief tool. If on the basis of the facts, not on promotional phrases, a particular evangelistic method was known to bring unbelievers to Christ and into responsible membership in the local body. McGavran was for it. If crusade evangelism in a certain place was helping churches grow and multiply, he was anxious to discover which of those methods could be applied effectively elsewhere. If it was not helping the body to grow, he wanted to know what the problem was so the mistake would not be repeated. If research could show that saturation evangelism was making disciples, fine; if not, why not?

The body evangelism stream has not yet crested. The most significant tool for its implementation as we move into the decade to come might prove to be the little book recently written by Vergil Gerber called **A Manual for Evangelism/ Church Growth.** This manual was written to meet needs arising from the first evangelism/church growth workshop held in Venezuela in 1972, which Gerber helped organize. Since Venezuela 1972, requests for workshops have flooded Gerber's Evangelical Missions Information Service in a way reminiscent of requests for crusade evangelism and saturation evangelism in previous years.

One of the major emphases of body evangelism is that it stresses what is being called "extension growth" as well as "expansion growth." Expansion growth means to make existing churches bigger, which is fine. But extension growth involves planting new churches. Church growth experts are convinced that the most effective evangelism in the future will come more through multiplying churches among the different peoples of the world, than through fattening already existing churches. We do not need bigger churches, they say, but we desperately need more of them. This principle does not only apply out there in Mamba Bamba, but it is most relevant also here in America.

THE DECADE TO COME

As we look forward to the decade to come, the older streams of crusade evangelism and saturation evangelism will undoubtedly continue, but perhaps with fewer assumptions that fervent evangelistic activity **per se** effectively makes disciples. Expansion church growth will continue to be stressed as it rightly should. Great national and international congresses on evangelization will stimulate creativity and perhaps help evaluate these streams.

But current signs indicate that body evangelism will gain in influence world wide. "Canned" approaches to evangelism will be shunned. Evangelistic effectiveness will be objectively evaluated on the basis of careful diagnostic research. Goals will be more clearly articulated and instruments for measuring the success or failure of a given strategy will be more widely developed and employed. Teaching on body life and spiritual gifts will be more directly applied to evangelism as we move into what some are calling the "age of the layman."

As this happens, Christian people will become less and less satisfied with sowing without reaping or fishing without catching. They will demand

involvement in evangelistic efforts that bear fruit for life eternal, not by ones or twos, but thirty, sixty and one hundred fold. Evangelistic barrenness will be seen as a disease, but a curable disease. Specialists in the area will perhaps gain the stature of church physicians, and be called in for consultation, diagnosis and prescriptions to cure the disease.

The total result will be according to all indications, a decade of the most significant growth of the body of Christ since the day of Pentecost. Given these prospects for abundant and fruitful evangelism, I cannot think of a time when it has been more exciting to be a Christian and in the service of the King.

Reprinted by permission of the Evangelical Missions information service from the January, 1974 **Evangelical Missions Quarterly.**

HARVEST TIME

While the Earth remaineth
While God shall stay His hand
Seedtime and harvest
Shall not cease within the land.
We'll have the cold of winter
The heat of summer sun
We'll have the daylight hours
The night when day is done.
So we on earth should sow good seed
Men's souls for Christ to win
'Till God shall say "The harvest's done"
And call His people in.

Edith Moore
Highland Brethren Church
Marianna, PA





DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR 1975

evangelicals in this nation-wide program of daily Bible reading. Handy bookmark-size reading guides are available in two plans, through the Bible in a year or Bible reading/study guide. Use the form below to place an order for your church today.

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A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

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NAE, Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

YES, we wish to share in NAE's Bible reading program for 1975. Please send the following materials in the indicated quantities:

_____ BIBLE READING/STUDY GUIDE —daily passages for 1975 with study guide.

_____ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR—daily reading guide chronologically covering the Bible in 1975.

Price of guides, either plan: 25/$1.50 50/$2.00 100 or more/$4.50 per 100

_____ POSTERS—for church bulletin boards and classrooms to promote your Bible reading program for 1975. 12/75 cents 25/$1.25 50 or more/$2.00 per 50

_____ PRAYER GUIDES—especially prepared for those interested in praying for specific NAE ministries. Provided free.

Total amount enclosed $_____

NOTE: Prices include postage/handling

NAME/CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

RESOURCES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMAL STUDY GROUPS ON THE "PEACE POSITION OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH"

1. Using a multimedia presentation: "Alternative To Violence"

 "Violence, as depicted on TV and in our culture, and a possible alternative." The 16mm film consists of movie ads, clips from Westerns, commercials, public service spots and two Jesus spots—all dealing with some form of violence or a search for an alternative. Equipment needed: One 16mm and two slide projectors. Time: 14 minutes, Rental $15. For more information, write or call: Visual Parables, Bethel Presbyterian Church, 2999 Bethal Church Road, Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, 15102, phone: 412-835-0405.

2. Making use of drama (here is an idea suggested in the Mennonite, July, 1974):

 Murder in the Cathedral by T. S. Eliot is a drama portraying the God-man relationship in historical figures. It deals with conflict between church and state, the will of God, the eternal design, the importance of Christ's life (mirrored in Becket) and also Christ's death, responsibility for witness, and redeeming love and hope (mirrored in the Chorus).

 Obtain copies of this play (in local libraries) and study it before the group session. The leader will need some historical background but the focus should be on fundamental ideas of Christian faith applied personally.

 Questions for discussion: What is Becket's predicament? What are the conflicts **between** the major characters? **Within** the major characters? What use is made of universal symbols like the seasons, light, the wheel? What is the function of the Chorus? What insights do you personally find for an individual Christian? How does suffering relate to the Christian? What is the redemptive note?

3. Using a study book: Try John Howard Yoder's **The Politics of Jesus,** Eerdmans. Yoder, President of Goshen Biblical Seminary, writes with amazing clarity. You may not agree with everything he says but you will not go unchallenged. His study on the gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, is worth the whole book. Paperback, $3.45.

(Submitted by the Peace Committee)



BRETHREN SEWING GUIDE

It's New!

A "new" 24-page BRETHREN SEWING GUIDE has been prepared and distributed by the Brethren World Relief Committee. Some women picked up copies for their church or W.M.S. at General Conference—and others have been mailed to local pastors.

Thus, by now someone in every church has at least 2 copies of the BRETHREN SEWING GUIDE.

Although the World Relief Committee is providing the booklet, it contains more than just sewing facts about World Relief. Included under one cover are:

WORLD RELIEF
BRETHREN CARE/BRETHREN HOME
BRETHREN MISSIONS IN INDIA
LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS.

The purpose is to (1) list the articles needed by each group, (2) give suggestions on how to make them, (3) and tell where to send them when completed. Several women told us this is just what they have needed!

The information given is the latest available, for we contacted each of the agencies in recent months. It supercedes what may have been printed or said in the past. In other words, to the best of our knowledge, you may rely on what is printed there. Please read it carefully!

We have supplied each church with at least 2 booklets. **But if any church has need for additional copies,** especially if there is more than one W.M.S., just send us a request and we'll be glad to supply them. Of course, as the note on the back cover suggests, any donations to help defray printing costs will be appreciated.



THE RESULTS
Some of the articles completed during the Conference Sewing Workshop.

So many good sewing projects have already been done in the past by Brethren women. Our goal is to help build on that experience by supplying the pertinent information that is current today —and help challenge other women in our churches to get involved "with their needles" in this kind of service in Jesus' name.

If you have any questions or suggestions, just let us know.

[My special thanks to those who supplied the pertinent information from Brethren Care, Brethren Home, the Mission Board and World Relief Commission. And a big "THANK YOU" to **Bonnie Munson** for her help in gathering the information and organizing the booklet. Bonnie actually isn't a member of the World Relief Committee, but as a colleague at Brethren House she gets drawn in on many extra projects.]



THE PROCESS
Women working on quilt during Sewing Workshop at 1974 General Conference.

Pastor Phil Lersch, Chairman
Brethren World Relief Committee
6301 56th Avenue, N.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

FOUNDATIONAL HYMN TALKS FOR MORNING WORSHIP



By Peter E. Roussaki
Minister of Music and Education
The Brethren Church
New Lebanon, Ohio

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways in which congregational singing in worship services may be enriched. I find the short devotional or informative HYMN TALK one of the most practical means. Hymn talks may be inserted quite naturally into the order of service. Immediately preceding the singing of a hymn the pastor, choir director, or song leader may provide a few minutes of hymn interpretation. He may also choose to interpret between stanzas. This technique seems to work better because the congregation is less likely to lose interest.

The four hymn talks in this series are called FOUNDATIONAL because they describe what this writer feels are the very basics of congregational or hymn singing. Clergy and laity alike can profit from a simple, yet clear understanding of the place of song in worship and other Christian settings. The talks may best be used at the beginning of a hymnic enrichment program. They are presented here basically as they were this spring in New Lebanon, each taking approximately six minutes, including singing.

PART III

PART III. **The Hymn**

Our consideration of the Hymn brings us to another New Testament reference. Acts 16 records the account of Paul and Silas in prison. Verse 25 reads: "But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening." Paul and Silas had been beaten, thrown in prison, their feet fast in the stocks. And what were they doing? Praying and of all things, singing! What followed? An earthquake and a conversion!

Whether or not the hymns they sang were Israelite Psalms, already established Christian hymns, or spontaneous musical utterances of praise, we do not know. What we do know, however, is: that hymns were a powerful, visible, and audible means of personal edification and strength, of corporate worship of God, and of testimony of faith in God.

What we also know is: that early Christian hymns were quoted and used as portions of Scripture much the same as we would quote a hymn today to illustrate a point or a feeling. One illustration of an early Christian hymn (or part of a hymn) is Ephesians 5:14. The introductory words, "therefore it is said," read as though they were to prepare for the citation of a familiar passage, well known to Paul's readers.

"Awake, O Sleeper, and rise
from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light."

While it is difficult to come up with a satisfying definition of a Hymn (and there are many formulated), I find it more significant to mention four outstanding features upon which most hymn authorities agree are present in the strongest of hymns. Very simply, a hymn is an ode of praise to God which is:

1. **Directed God-ward** (It may be a hymn in the nature of a prayer to God, or a song of praise about God.)
2. **Useful both in private devotion and corporate worship.**
3. **Has a strong Scriptural Base** (It may be a paraphrase of Scripture, or an original hymn with many scriptural allusions permeating the stanzas.)
4. **Designed to be sung** (may or may not be accompanied by musical instruments)

All of the hymns used in today's service, I feel, contain all of the four mentioned qualities. They were written by Rev. Isaac Watts in the eighteenth century. (The hymns of the service included: "Come, We That Love the Lord," "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," and "I Am a Soldier of the Cross.") Our hymn of prayer, "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove," is a prayer to the Holy Spirit. It certainly is suitable for private devotion as well as for corporate worship. The two scripture references alluded to in the hymn are Matthew 3:16 and Romans 5:5.

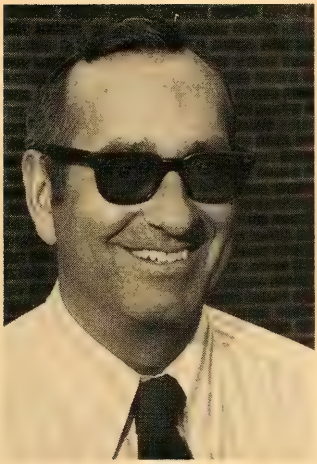
"And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighted on him. . . ."

"Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given to us."

(The hymn is then sung.)

"MODERATOR'S MESSAGE"

by Virgil L. Barnhart



I want to share with you some of the thoughts and concerns that I have relative to Church Growth. The Seminar that Dr. Win Arn led at Park Street brings many concepts for application as well as ideas for us to utilize. I am glad that Lois and I were able to attend this two-day Seminar and to write about some of these views. The theme for this year and for conference is "Let the Church Grow—Let it Happen."

The definition that I'm using for "Church Growth" is one taken from the glossary provided for us in the Seminar packet.

"Church Growth is an application of Biblical, theological, social, and behavioral science principles to the local church and its surrounding community in an effort to influence and disciple the greatest number of people for Jesus Christ. Believing that it is God's will that His Church grow and His lost children are found, Church Growth endeavors to devise strategies, develop objectives and apply proven principles of growth to the local church."

After reading the above definition and thinking about it and how it would apply to each of us personally in our lives, our churches and our communities, here are some of the ways that came to me during the Seminary sessions.

The question is often asked—"If the church is not growing, who is responsible?" Is it the pastor, the laity, or circumstances? I'm not attempting to answer this question because it would vary according to the churches and church personnel. I will say, however, that attitude determines whether growth results or if dying on the vine occurs. The attitude of pastor, deacons, church officers, and church members are equally responsible for the attitudes and achievements that result. It takes a Holy Spirit led unity of mind and action to make the proper blend for us to achieve this growth.

I believe that the task of the church is to give people meaning in life and visible evidence of how Christ changes lives. I also feel that the Church should be the living body of the laity (meaning all the collective people of the congregation) and that we should be showing our love for others by learning to share God's message for mankind.

There is a definite relationship between attitude and the growth of the church. For a church to grow, a church must **want** to grow. Some are content to remain as they are. The right strategies blending with the proper objectives and proven principles will show growth results.

Many people are hungry for God's Word, Christ's Way and the Holy Spirit's Guidance. If we consider this our task, then we need to become actively engaged in making disciples. Our attitudes largely determine where we put our efforts and energies.

WHERE DOES CHURCH GROWTH FIT IN YOUR PRIORITY LIST?

NAE SUNDAY SET FOR OCTOBER 27

WHEATON, Ill.—The 1974 observance of NAE Sunday in evangelical churches across the country will focus attention on the multifaceted ministries of the Association, according to Paul E. Toms, NAE president.

Dr. Toms, pastor of Park Street Church, Boston, said that more churches than ever are expected to take part this year. "NAE's fellowship now numbers over 30,000 churches from 60 denominations," he said.

Through NAE's eight commissions and four affiliated agencies, churches receive practical assistance in such areas as foreign missions, social concerns, stewardship and broadcasting. In addition, NAE's Office of Public Affairs in Washington, D.C. is active on critical issues affecting evangelicals in legislation and national affairs. Special NAE Sunday materials are being offered to churches to help them with the Oct. 27 observance.

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



The wedding of Rev. Paul Steiner to Miss Donna Glee Forbes was held at the York Center Church of The Brethren in Lombard, Illinois on September 21, 1974. Rev. Dean Miller officiated and was assisted by Rev. Kenneth Hollinger.

Miss Forbes served two years in Nigeria in the B.V.S. program. She is also an ordained Minister having served as Associate Pastor of the York Center Church and also served as Minister of Christian Education at the Palmyra, Pennsylvania Church of The Brethren.

Rev. Paul Steiner is the pastor of the First Brethren Church in Lanark, Illinois. He was the Moderator of the 1974 General Conference of Brethren Churches.

* * *

CATTRON - ROBINSON

Miss Angela Cattron and Mr. Ricky Robinson were united in marriage July 9th in the sanctuary of the First Brethren Church in N. Manchester.

Pastor Woodrow A. Immel officiated at this service.

* * *

NEUHOUSER - KREIDER

Beth Neuhouser and Bill Kreider were married in the Honeywell Gardens in Wabash, Indiana, on July 1, 1974 at 8:30 A.M. This young couple is residing at 602 N. Front St. in N. Manchester, Indiana. Pastor Immel of The Brethren Church North Manchester, Indiana, officiated at thi wedding.

* * *

GARRETT - SITES

The wedding of Miss Ina Garrett of Wabash Indiana and Mr. Myron Sites was soleminized Jul 29th in the sanctuary of the First Brethren Churc in N. Manchester.

Pastor Woodrow Immel officiated at this service

* * *

PENROD - HEATER

Miss Vicki Penrod daughter of Mr. and Mr Wilbur Penrod and Clark W. Heater, son of M and Mrs. Carl W. Heater were married in th First Brethren Church sanctuary on August 30t at twilight.

Pastor Immel officiated for the double rin vows and the musical was presented by Mr Woodrow Immel.

* * *

OTT - DEATON

The Wedding of Miss Jill Ott and Mr. Stephe Deaton was soleminized Saturday, July 27th i the sanctuary of the First Brethren Church i N. Manchester.

Pastor Woodrow Immel officiated at this wed ding service.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Gardner observed thei 51st Wedding Anniversary August 11, 1974.

Sarasota, Florida

New Arrivals

Christopher Eric Kidder; the adoption proceed ings went very smoothly. Chris is 10 months ol and weights about 28 pounds. He has been "OURS for six and a half months and we love him dearly We thank God.

Pastor and Mrs. Tom Kidder

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Masontown, Pennsylvania—7 by baptism

CHURCH NEWS

HAVE YOU HEARD?



THE MESSENGER QUARTETTE FROM VINCO

Messengers" Singing to the Glory of God.

Young men with personal testimonies.

David Mackall, Lyric Tenor; Barry Dysert, Lead; Bryan Lynch, Baritone; Rob Dysert, Bass; with Linda Metzger, Pianist

Linda recently completed her summer work as a member of a Gospel team traveling in several States, under the Brethren Youth Crusader Summer Program.

Miss Joyce Cole was graduated from Conemaugh Valley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, June 23, 1974.

Joyce is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. C. William Cole of Vinco, and is a member of the Vinco Brethren Church and was active in Sisterhood and the Youth Groups.

Joyce recently completed her summer work as a Volunteer Worker, as a nurse for Brethren Care at Ashland, Ohio, under the Brethren Youth Crusader Program.

Miss Janice Straub was graduated from Altoona Hospital School of Nursing, Altoona, Pennsylvania, June 13, 1974 .

Janice is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Straub of Vinco, Pennsylvania, and is a member of the Vinco Brethren Church and was active in Sisterhood and the Youth Groups.

OAK HILL, WEST VIRGINIA

The theme for the Sunday-School Contest at Oak Hill beginning October 7th is THE SKY'S THE LIMIT and what more unique way to get the contest off the ground than by an Airplane party.

The party was sponsored and hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas for the youth and teachers of the First Brethren Church of Oak Hill, West Virginia. Approximately forty people from this group were taken for a plane trip over the New River Gorge and Bridge site and were served refreshments through the courtesy of the Thomases.

The group wishes to express their gratitude for the wonderful time spent, especially the opportunity to view the majesty of God's world from the air on that beautiful day of September 26, 1974.

Announcement of contest and kickoff party submitted by
Mrs. Winston S. Smith
Corresponding Secretary

Masontown Brethren Church, Masontown, Pennsylvania, is having revival services October 20th to 25th, conducted by Brother Carl Phillips, pastor of the Highland Brethren Church, Marianna, Pennsylvania.

GOLDEN AGE FELLOWSHIP

There were more than 60 out for our first G.A.F. meeting. It was held here at our church on Wednesday, and all who were here remarked about how much they enjoyed it. Thanks to the women who provided the meal and the program. Enthusiasm was so high, that we will try to make it a continuing affair. The Highlight of the afternoon was no doubt the honoring of Walter & Duane Snyder, as we presented them a shield plaque in recognition of their 100th anniversary. It was pointed out that four generations of Snyders have served our community as Funeral Directors.

Brush Valley Brethren Church
Adrian, Pennsylvania

WINDING WATERS



On October 18, 1964 a group of 70 persons gathered in the newly constructed wing of what was to be the Winding Waters Brethren Church for their first worship service. Then in November the sanctuary was completed and the "vision" of a mission church by the people of the First Brethren Church of Elkhart had become a reality.

On October 18, 1974, The Winding Waters Brethren Church will celebrate 10 years of history and will embark on a new plan for action with the theme "Growing in God." The church has a new vision—that of becoming a community church, aiding and leading in the affairs of the surrounding communities. With a definite goal of 100 percent growth in five years, every member is paying and working to "Grow In God."

Dr. Charles Munson, Professor at Ashland Theological Seminary will be the featured speaker for the Weekend Celebration. Also Rev. John Brownsberger, the former pastor will speak about the earlier years and be the featured speaker at the carry-in dinner on Sunday. Rev. Brownsberger had been the first pastor of Winding Waters and served for 7½ years. Two years ago the church called Rev. Fred Finks to be their new pastor Fred, along with his wife Holly and two children Alyson and Jonathan, have appreciated deeply the love that has engulfed them from their family at Winding Waters.

Many exciting events have spurred on this congregation. They have two men which have heard the call to serve God. Wes and Sally Ellis are completing their last year at Ashland Theological Seminary and plan to enter the full time pastoral ministry. Don and Mary Snell have been active for two years in full time Christian work with Campus Crusade in California.

Recently, this past summer another dream became a reality with the construction of a new parsonage in the community where the church is located. It was evident to everyone how God had acted to bring this about.

Now that ten years have past and a solid foundation exists, the people at Winding Waters are on the move. "Growing In God" are the key words as this congregation seeks to serve and praise the Living Lord.

Rev. Fred Finks

SOME COMPARATIVE COSTS IN THE UNITED STATES

The people of this country pay every year:

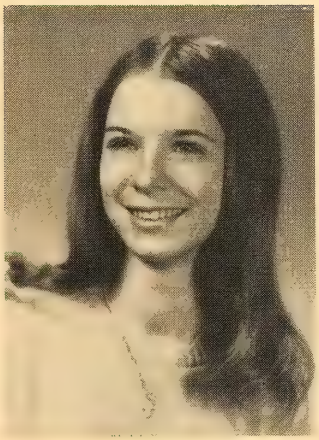
For getting born	$225,000,000
For getting married	300,000,000
For getting buried	750,000,000
Total	$1,275,000,000
For getting drunk	$1,500,000,000*

(*This does not include the heartaches, the loss of constructive employment, destruction of life and property, and the cost to taxpayers to maintain law enforcement and to institutionalize the victims.)

from Wayne Heights Newsletter

SISTERHOOD





by Beth Gilmer

Hello! Some of you may have not known that you have a new general secretary. I am a newcomer here to Ashland. I work at the Brethren Publishing Company. Please write me at 415 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

We can all give Sherry a great big "Thank you!" for the three years of fine service she gave the Sisterhood as general secretary. It will be hard to fill her shoes!

First of all, I would like to introduce you to the rest of the 1974-75 officers.

Our president, Nancy Ronk, is a freshman at Goshen College majoring in nursing. Her address is Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana 46526.

Bonnie Radcliff is our vice president. She lives at 1625 South Main Street, Goshen, Indiana 46526, and works at the Goshen Hospital.

Joan McKinney, from Tucson, Arizona, is our new literature secretary. Joan is a freshman at Ashland College majoring in religion and lives off campus at 415 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

As last year, our financial secretary is Cathy Harding. Cathy is a sophomore at Ashland College and lives at R.R. 2, Box 240B, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Joan Holsinger is again our treasurer. She is a junior at Ashland College majoring in religion. Her address is 208 Sloan Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Mrs. Judy Tinkel from Fort Wayne is our patroness. Fort Wayne has a new church site so Mrs. Tinkel's new address is 8840 St. Joe Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805.

Our assistant patroness, Mrs. Lois Scott, resides at Robson Road, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590.

Please join with me in remembering all these new officers and patronesses in prayer. And please always feel free to write to any of us at any time.

Did your Sisterhood group participate in the conference ingathering this year? If not, you were missed! (The ingathering was lower than last year.) The project for the coming year is the Mission Board. They certainly can use the gifts we give them for the Lord's service. Make it a point to be involved in the ingathering next year. Get started now. Also, don't forget to send in your public service and thank offerings during the year.

Were most of you at National Conference? If not, you truly missed an exciting and uplifting experience. What better way is there to grow in the Lord than to fellowship with other Christians —from all over the United States! It was an excellent chance to put into practice our conference theme, "One Body in Christ." We were all children in one great big family with the same blessed Heavenly Father as our guardian.

Girls, I challenge you to carry on this theme. I know it isn't always easy, but as each day passes during the coming year, let's truly make it our goal to be "One Body in Christ!"

Beth

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON WORLD EVANGELIZATION

LAUSANNE, Switzerland—The first draft of an agreement of belief, purpose and mission has been circulated to the more than 3,000 participants attending the International Congress on World Evangelization here.

Called the "Lausanne Covenant" the estimated 1,400-word document affirms the evangelical view that both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, in their entirety, are the written Word of God and only infallible rule of faith and practice. Basically, it calls Christians to recognize the church's mission to evangelization and the urgency to work together in various ways under God's Holy Spirit to accomplish the task of world evangelization during this decade.

The draft was drawn up by a committee of five appointed by the congress planners. The views it expresses, however, are those of the 3,000 evangelical leaders from 150 nations who were in Lausanne. According to a committee spokesman, the written responses of participants to all major study papers prior to the opening of the congress were considered in this first draft.

The covenant notes that the church itself becomes a stumbling block to evangelism whenever "it betrays the Gospel or lacks faith in God, love for people and scrupulous honesty in promotion and finance." The church, the draft states, is more a community than an institution. Therefore, it "must not be identified with any particular culture, structure or organization, social or political system, or human ideology."

In the area of social responsibility, which has already received a major emphasis in several plenary sessions and study groups, the covenant notes that man is made in the image of God and should be served, not exploited.

"Here too we express penitence both for our neglect and for having sometimes regarded evangelism and social concern as mutually exclusive options . . . We affirm that social action and evangelism are necessary expressions . . . of our duty to love our neighbor."

The draft states that more than 2,000 million people, two-thirds of mankind, are yet to be evangelized. There is an unprecedented receptivity to Jesus Christ, they claim, and they call for churches and missionary agencies to launch new evangelistic efforts.

The covenant calls for the development of strategies which under God will result in the rise of truly Christian churches that are deeply rooted in their own culture. Missions, it notes, have sometimes exported alien cultures with the Gospel and evangelists and missionaries must empty themselves of all but their personal authenticity.

The covenant concludes with an affirmation of the power of the Holy Spirit, which it describes as a missionary spirit. Thus, evangelism should arise spontaneously from a Spirit-filled church. Whenever a church is not a missionary church, it is contradicting itself and quenching the Spirit.

Each of the participants at the congress have been asked to respond to the covenant over the next few days. From their response, a final copy of the Lausanne Covenant is expected to emerge before the congress ends on July 25. Approval of the covenant will be on an individual basis rather than as an action of the whole assembly.

I'M A NICE STRANGER

"I never complain. I never create a scene. When I go to church I never offer an objection if the usher leads me down to the front seat while all the members of the church crowd the back seats and fix their curious gaze on my embarrassed march. No, I just take my seat.

"I'm a nice visitor. I never growl aloud when I have to push by and walk over the feet of people who hog aisles seats and would not move out of their favorite places even if it meant the salvation of a soul. Oh, No, I just sit down meekly.

"I'm an ideal church stranger. I never reprimand people who sit behind me—talking and whispering and giggling. Oh, no, I'm too polite for that.

"At the close of the services, as I walk toward the door, I never make a scene if nobody speaks to me. No, they gather in little groups and don't bother me. I'm the nice visitor to the church.

"And I'll tell you something else that I am. I'm the stranger who never comes back again."

Brethren, let each one of us be very careful that we do all that we possibly can to make visitors and guests to our services feel very much at home. Take time to greet all visitors before you, and they, get away from the church. Invite them back. If they sit by you be friendly throughout the service. Remember, "More people follow firetrucks than follow icewagons."

from Louisville, Ohio
Newsletter

CHEEP ADVICE



The wise man doesn't expect to find life worth living—he makes it that way!

Folks with a lot of brass are seldom polished.

A gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without adversity.

When a prayer of faith goes to market, it always takes a basket!

Seven days without prayer makes one "weak."

We make a living by what we get—we make a life by what we give.

Humility is that strange thing that the moment you think you have it, you have lost it.
—Theodore Roosevelt

A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.
—Margaret Fuller

Obstacles are the things you see when you take your eye off the goal.

In labors of love, every day is pay day!

The best blood will at sometime get into a fool, or a mosquito.—Austin O'Malley

BOOK REVIEWS



FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF L'ABRI

Betty Carlson's collection of letters to her friends turns into a book of nuggets about life in the Swiss Alps and other places—wherever friends of the L'Abri community now find themselves. Many are familiar with the books of Francis Schaeffer, Betty Carlson adds the personal touch to life in the village of Huemoz.

An easy reading, spirit uplifting book, **From the Mountains of L'Abri** shares not only personal experiences but also personal selections from the scriptures as a thoughtful reflection on the point of each letter called "the long and short of it:"

Very enjoyable reading, the book is published by Key Publishers of Wheaton and is available for $1.95 plus postage and handling through the Brethren Book Store or other Christian book sellers.

—reviewed by the Bookworm

OBSERVATIONS OF CHARLIE, CHURCH MOUSE



My name is Charlie. I live in the church. I have lived here all my life, right in our home in the sanctuary wall.

I have journeyed all through the church and have observed many happenings which I thought you might like to hear.

Some are happy,
Some are sad,
Some are great,
Some are bad.

I remember once when I was just a little shaver Mom and Dad took us kids on an excursion to a place called the "baptistry." My folks said something big was happening there that day. It was a solemn and holy event, they told us.

We scurried to the room where the baptistry was and took our places behind some small benches. The pastor was already standing in a hole in the floor with water up to his waist. Some other people were there too and five of them were wearing white robes. (I knew there were five because my brother, Benjamin, counted them. I don't know how to count yet.)

One of the "white robes" walked down into the water (humans are strange—I wouldn't get in any water if it was me) and the preacher said some words. Then guess what he did? He took the man's head and pushed it under the water three times (Benjamin counted). The pastor said some more words and the man got out of the water.

The same thing happened to a lady and a little boy and my parents said, "Isn't it wonderful?" Actually, I thought it was kind of strange. Then a little girl went into the water and when the pastor put her head in the water she came up spitting and spluttering and gasping. My sister, Ruthie, said, "Oh, my goodness!" And when the pastor pushed her head under the third time, Ruthie thought he was going to drown her. But she was O.K.

The last "white robe" was a lady and she went into the water when the pastor got ready to put her head under the water, my sister, Ruthie, got so excited she dashed out right to the edge of the baptistry. She hoped to scare him so he wouldn't drown the lady. The "white robe" saw her, let out a terrible scream and began thrashing around in the water. She went under plenty of times and Benjamin and I thought she would drown for sure. Ruthie got scared herself when all the water began splashing around and ran for our hiding place. Mom and Dad were so mad at her—they scolded her and pulled her tail hard. But Benjy and I thought it was the funniest sight we had ever seen and laughed so hard we rolled on the floor. We rushed home and were soon back to our hole in the sanctuary wall. Mom said she had never been so "mortified," and we wondered what mortified meant.

I love weddings! There are lots of people and so much happiness. From our door we can always see the bride and bridesmaids as they go down the aisle. I have seen all kinds of brides and grooms—young, old, fat, skinny, nervous, non-chalant, calm, frenzied and even a couple of unconscious ones. But what I like most are weddings where they throw rice! We always scamper out quick to get our share of it before the janitor cleans it up and we have a feast.

Another holy occasion in our church is communion. Mom and Dad have always cautioned us to be "quiet as church mice" for communion but sometimes it is very hard to obey. And we have often noticed that some of the people have the same problem. The humans in this church certainly must like water because they use it not only in the baptistry but at communion too—this time to wash their feet. After they wash each others' feet, the people say something to one another, shake hands and kiss. Ruthie, Benjy and I have always thought that was funny but Mom and Dad assure us that humans act that way. One time though I heard a boy say to another one, "If you kiss me, I'll punch you in the nose." Then they go eat and you should hear all the crunching while they eat in silence. One time Benjy got up on a high post to watch and he said it was the pickles that snapped and crunched. I have seen big people and children both get the giggles because the silence was disrupted by rumbling stomachs, crunching pickles or just from the great effort of trying to be quiet.

We have many happy times in our church but there are sad times too as well as times of joy and solemn holiness. Sad times to me are when some of the people get angry with each other or when we have funerals, or when the pastor becomes discouraged (as they sometimes do). I have seen the pastor down on his knees, praying for help for himself and the people. One time when I dared to sneak right up by his knee on the floor, I almost got splashed with a tear that rolled off his cheek. I looked up and another one was about to fall on me so I skittered home quick.

There are great times in our church and I think my favorite is when we have music. The people make such beautiful music with their voices and instruments. I never want them to stop. Mom and Dad say they think that is what heaven will be like—filled with music and I agree. One time, though, we thought we were going to lose Benjy because of music. As you might have guessed by now, my brother is a pretty mischievous mouse and that got him in big trouble once. He decided to investigate a thing called the "piano." Benjy got inside the lid and started running up and down some wires. He said he was having great fun exploring when all of a sudden a lot of things began moving inside and twice Benjy almost got hit by a piece that looked like a small hammer. He scurried back and forth trying to keep from being hit and then he slipped and fell all the way to the bottom of the box. One of his legs was hurt and he about knocked himself out when he fell. Hurt and dazed, Benjy had an awful time getting out of the piano and home again. And all the time we were enjoying the great music.

A few bad things have happened like neighborhood kids who broke windows in our church, someone splashed paint on the church and sidewalks, and some people have written in and torn up the hymnals. Not all the bad things have been done by outsiders, though. Children who come to church do such things too and their parents sometimes allow them to walk on the seats, kick them and mark on walls. Mom and Dad said they can't understand how these humans can allow their offspring to act that way and do nothing or say weakly, "Johnny, you shouldn't do that." Of course, Johnny goes right on doing as he pleases.

Yes, life is interesting here in our church. We have happy and sad, great and bad moments but the best of all times is when someone "accepts Christ," as the humans call it. It is truly a holy and happy time to see the wondrous joy and light that comes to that person. Even we church mice can tell the difference.

My parting thought to you is—"Go to church, have some great experiences but watch where you walk. Us mice are here too!

by . . .
I. M. Christian

INHABITANTS

As I knocked at the Gates of Hell
I wondered who may live there—
Would it be one of my own faith
That this Eternity I would share?
I asked about Catholics and Baptists,
I asked for Methodists too,
For Presbyterian and Brethren—
And the answer "YES" each time
came through.
I was somewhat disappointed
And dismayed at this reply;
So I turned my step then upward
And the Gates of Heaven did try;
As I knocked I ask the question—
The same question as before—
I ask if all the faiths
Had entered into this door.
Because before I entered
These things I wished to know;
And each time the answer
Came back to me as "NO"
I was somewhat disappointed
And dismayed this time again
So I ask in desperation
Whom do you have here then?
We know not those you ask for
For all are Christians here—
Of these there are a multitude
Came the voice loud and clear
They are born again Christians
From every nation and tongue
Heaven knows no denominations
The angel of God did sing!

Ruth DeLozier

World Religious News in Review

DONOR GETS BACK $800 GIFT AFTER 'DISILLUSIONMENT'

MIAMI, Fla. (EP)—Hugh McNatt, 42 and unemployed, gave the Allapattan Baptist Church here $800 because the pastor promised, "If you honor God with what is rightly his, then he will bless you."

When McNatt allegedly failed in three years to reap the blessings he expected he brought suit against the church.

The $800 was returned to him by Alton S. Newell of San Antonio, Tex., who read of the suit and decided to repay the donor.

"I sympathize with anyone who gives money to the church and sits back and expects God to immediately hand it back to him, with interest, by some specific act," Newell said in a letter to Pastor Donald Manuel and McNatt's lawyer.

"I have never tried to make a deal with God . . . but for 36 years my wife and I have found that God will honor those who honor Him."

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER WORSHIP BOOKLETS AVAILABLE

WHEATON, Ill.—Individuals and church groups across the country are now gearing up for World Day of Prayer activities, March 7, 1975, according to R. Gordon Bacon, NAE national field representative.

"The special Friday services are often conducted as a community-wide observance by inter-church women's groups," he said. NAE's 16-page booklet is offered in quantity to churches and community groups at no charge and is designed as a guide in program planning or as the actual service format including audience participation.

"Last year some 100,000 of the booklets were distributed, and we have received many comments of appreciation on its Christ-centered content," Bacon said.

This year's guide was prepared by Dr. George E. Failing, editor of **The Wesleyan Advocate**, and centers on the theme, "Working Together with God."

SYMPOSIUM EXPLORES COUNSELING TO DYING, SUICIDAL, DEPRESSED

AUGUSTA, Maine (EP)—A Chicago physician told participants in a symposium on depression, suicide, death and dying that counselors to the dying must overcome the "subconscious aversion to death" that stems from the feeling that death is a "catastrophic force we can't control."

"The nightmare should be taken from death. It should be looked on as a natural process," said Dr. Elizabeth Kubler Ross, a specialist on ministering to the dying who has written a book on the subject, "On Death and Dying."

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP BRIEFING, JANUARY 13-17

WHEATON, Ill. — NAE's annual Washington Briefing, January 13-17, is expected to draw a record number of pastors and lay leaders, according to NAE general director, Dr. Clyde W. Taylor. Taylor said that this year's interest is not necessarily because the U.S. has gone through one of the most tumultuous times in its political history, but "with fresh leadership at the top, the beginning of the 94th Congress and a continuing host of foreign and domestic challenges, January 1975 will be an extremely crucial and exciting time to participate in the Briefing."

The program will include time in Committee hearings and opening sessions of Congress, and special briefings by key leaders in major departments of government. Also scheduled are times of informal discussion and prayer with an emphasis on spiritual answers. Reservations for the 4½-day workshop will fill quickly, emphasized Floyd Robertson, briefing coordinator. Registration information and special travel arrangements from California or the Midwest can be secured by writing NAE's Office of Public Affairs, 1405 G Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. 20005.

TRAVELING SEMINARS STRESS CHURCH GROWTH, STEWARDSHIP AND MISSIONS

WHEATON, Ill.—Special workshops on church growth, stewardship and missions in the local church are being sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals for pastors and lay leaders this fall and winter, according to Edward J. Hales NAE director of Field Services.

Church Growth Seminars, presented in Montana and Idaho in September, are scheduled for Baltimore Oct. 28; Flushing, N.Y. Oct. 29; Rexford N.Y. Oct. 30; and Portsmouth, N.H. Nov. 1.

A special three-day Stewardship Workshop, jointly sponsored by the Stewardship Commission of the NAE and the Stewardship Department of the Assemblies of God, is slated for Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 in San Francisco, Oct. 9-11 in Cleveland and Oct. 14-16 in Springfield, Missouri, and will include approximately 15 speakers at each worshop.

The "Missions in the Local Church" seminar set for five locations in the Midwest in March, will feature key leaders from the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, and NAE affiliate representing 65 missionary organizations.

"Provision of practical help to supplement the work of the local church is a high priority function of the Field Services Department," Hales said.

NEW JERSEY CHRISTIAN COALITION SEEKS TO HALT CASINO GAMBLING

MERCHANTVILLE, N.J. (EP) — A coalition of Christian groups in New Jersey has called on churches in the state to join in a massive effort to defeat any proposals aimed at legalizing casino gambling.

A referendum question will appear on the Nov. 5 ballot to amend the New Jersey Constitution to legalize casino gambling.

To help churches launch a "Vote No" campaign, a pamphlet called "Why New Jersey Constitution Should Reject Casino Gambling," has been prepared by the Coalition of the Christian Religious Bodies of New Jersey to Oppose Any Extension of Legalized Gambling.

The coalition includes representatives and executive leaders of major groups including the New Jersey Council of Churches, the Church Women United of New Jersey, the New Jersey Christian Conference on Legislation, and the New Jersey Catholic Conference.

RUSSIA 'OPPRESSIVE,' BUT GOSPEL WITNESS OPEN, DR. NARRAMORE FINDS

ROSEMEAD, Calif. (EP) — "It's unbelievably oppressive to be in a country where God and Jesus Christ are outlawed," commented the head of the Narramore Christian Foundation here after returning from a tour of parts of the Soviet Union.

Dr. Clyde M. Narramore, however, underscored the openness of Christian believers.

Following a spontaneous singing of "Amazing Grace" with Russian believers, he said the number on their bus was recorded by secret police and they had to move on.

"Another outstanding impression we gained was that almost everything of a cultural nature the Communists bragged about in their country was there **before** they took over," Dr. Narramore said.

NSSA OFFICE MOVES TO WHEATON

WHEATON, Ill.—The Board of Members of the National Sunday School Association has voted unanimously to close its Whittier, Calif. office and transfer all administrative operations to the National Association of Evangelicals headquarters in Wheaton, Ill. The announcement was made by Wilfred C. Frykman, president of NSSA. All inquiries relating to cooperative, evangelical Sunday School activities should now be addressed to NSSA, Box 28, Wheaton, IL 60187.

RELIGION LESS IMPORTANT TO YOUNG, POLL SHOWS

NEW YORK (EP)—Fewer American youth consider religion a "very important value" in life, according to a national study.

Young people who hold that religion is a "very important value" in life have dropped from 59 per cent five years ago to 39 per cent today.

In a short span, what was a majority in that camp has suddenly become a minority.

Five foundations sponsored the survey taken by Daniel Yankelovich, Inc.

Statistics show that a majority of those dropping religion in school days return to it in more mature years.

The "great homogenizing influence of mass communications" was cited as a factor shaping beliefs of young people today.

PRESIDENT FORD PARDONS NIXON IN 'SHOW OF MERCY,' RELIGIOUS LEADERS REACT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—President Ford's decision to pardon former President Nixon was based in part on the new Chief Executive's belief that mercy begets mercy.

"I do believe with all my heart and mind and spirit that I, not as President, but as humble servant of God, will receive justice without mercy if I fail to show mercy," Ford said.

The sudden move, announced on Sept. 8, following the President's attendance at worship services at St. John's Episcopal Church, covered "all offenses against the U.S. which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or taken part in" when Mr. Nixon was in the White House.

Surprise, indignation and statements that the new President acted prematurely were among the initial responses from religious leaders.

The pardon "violates our sensibilities and is an affront to our sense of justice," said Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Many wondered how President Ford can give a blanket pardon to Richard Nixon and still insist that war resisters earn amnesty.

Evangelist Billy Graham had another viewpoint. He said in Los Angles that President Ford acted with "decisiveness, courage and compassion" in pardoning former President Nixon.

Prosecution of Mr. Nixon, according to the evangelist, "would have torn the country apart more than Watergate itself."

"By acting now on this controversial issue," he said, "the President saved the country from the emotional division and agony that would have further weakened America at home and abroad."

Dr. Graham felt that Mr. Nixon "has already paid a terrible price for the mistakes of his administration."

Dr. W. Sterling Cary, president of the National Council of Churches, termed the pardon "regrettable."

The "untimeliness" of the act "makes all the more difficult the task of religious leaders to be messengers of hope in a climate of deepening cynicism."

Mr. Ford's desire to effect healing in the wake of Watergate is "commendable," added Dr. Cary, "but this must be balanced by insisting on accountability for one's acts, not only for Mr. Nixon's term but for Mr. Nixon himself.

"Pardon at this stage of the judicial process calls into question the very integrity of the American system," he said.

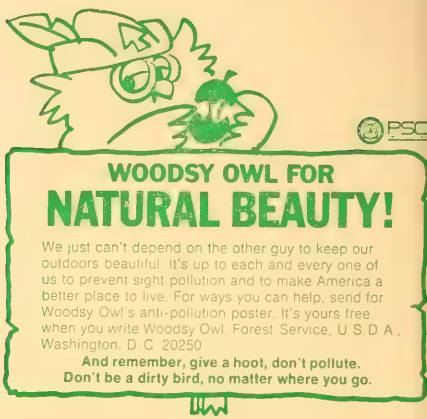
MEET WOODSY OWL

Whooo is Woodsy Owl? In case you haven't met Woodsy (Millions of people have), he is the national anti-pollution symbol whose slogan is "Give a Hoot! Don't pollute." Woodsy is a young owl, a fanciful character, wise in the ways of our environment. He wants to share his knowledge, that we might all work together to fight pollution and improve our outdoor environment.

What does Woodsy look like? You'll easily recognize Woodsy. He's dressed in forest green pants held in place by a large black belt. His gold belt buckle is a large 0 circling a W—the brand of Woodsy Owl. Perched jauntily on his head is a forest green "Robin Hood" hat, sporting a light green pine tree outline in front and a red pollution feather tucked into the right hat band.

How did Woodsy come into being? Like Smokey Bear,, he was born in a forest with a lot of help from the Forest Service. His creation was furthered by school children and youth groups, who helped decide what the national anti-pollution symbol should look like. He was officially introduced by the Secretary of Agriculture on September 15, 1971.

Why is Woodsy Owl needed? If we are going to solve our pollution problems—and we can—the personal involvement of every American is needed. In these days of energy problems and environmental concerns, Woodsy can help to make everyone aware of ways to save energy while fighting pollution and improving our outdoor environment.



WOODSY OWL, the anti-pollution spokesbird fo the U.S. Forest Service says:
Separate your household trash. Smash cans an put in one box; bottles in another; papers i another. Take them to the nearest recycling center

LAFF-A-LITTLE

Two veteran soldiers were bragging about their respective outfits. "When we presented arms," said one, "all you could hear was slap, slap, click."

"Pretty fair," replied the other. "With us, it was slap, slap, click, jingle."

"Jingle?" What was that?"

"Our medals."

"That pain in your leg is caused by old age," said the nurse to her elderly patient.

"That can't be," said the man. "The other leg is the same age and doesn't hurt a bit."

"Look here," said the businessman who was in need of a young man to help around the place, "Aren't you the same boy who was in here a week ago?"

"Yes sir," replied the applicant.

"But didn't I tell you then that I wanted an older boy?"

"Yes sir; that's why I'm back. I'm older now!"

"How kind of you to bring me these lovely flowers. They are so beautiful and fresh. I believe there is some dew on them yet."

"Yes," stammered the young man, quite taken aback, "but I am going to pay it off tomorrow."

A gangling youth walked to the clerk of the court and announced he wanted a marriage license

"Certainly," said the clerk. "Where's the bride elect?"

"What d'ya mean, bride-elect?" asked the young ster. There warn't no election—this gal appointed herself."

Two opposing political candidates were debating on a street corner, while a group of spectators listened. "There are hundreds of ways of making money," challenged one, "but only one honest way."

"And what's that?" jeered the other.

"Ah, ah!" exulted the first speaker. "I didn't think you'd know.

ONE SOLUTION

Years ago a young man knelt with the preacher and prayed as he committed himself to give a tenth of what he made to the Lord. His first week's pay was $10.00, and the tenth was $1.00. As he grew older he became more prosperous and his tenth was $100.00 a week, then $200.00 and then $500.00. He sent his old friend a wire, "Come and see me."

The preacher arrived at the man's beautiful house. They had a good time talking over old times. Finally, the man came to his point: "You remember that promise I made years ago to give a tenth of all I made to the Lord? How can I be released from it?" he asked.

"It's like this," the man continued. "When I made that promise, I had only to give $1.00, but now it is $500.00. I can't afford to give away money like that."

The old preacher looked at his friend. "I'm afraid we cannot get a release from that promise, but there is something we can do. We can kneel here and ask God to shrink your income so you can afford to give one dollar."

from The Truth

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ALSO VISIT THE NEW BRADENTON BRETHREN CHURCH

Temporarily meeting in the South County Youth and Family Recreation Center, two miles east of Route 301 and the red light in Oneco, Florida, on 53rd Ave. East at the corner of 37th St. East.

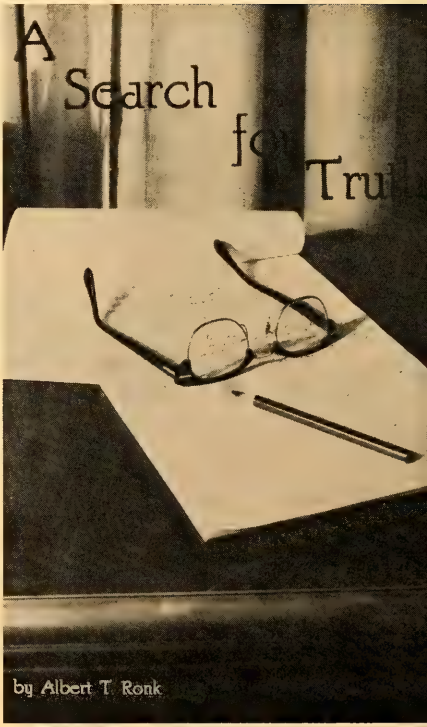
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"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

This book was printed as a memorial volume in a limited edition by the Ronk family and the Book and Pamphlet Commission. It is available at the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstores in Ashland, Ohio and Plymouth, Indiana.

The price of this book is $1.00 plus 35¢ postage and handling charge.

Send for your copy to:

THE BRETHREN BOOKSTORE
524 College Avenue 110 West LaPorte Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805 or Plymouth, Indiana 46563

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

Recently a letter was received by Mr. Fred D. Horn, Sr., Secretary of General Conference of The Brethren Church from Gerald R. Ford, the President of The United States. Following is a facsimile of the letter received by Mr. Horn.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
September 17, 1974

Dear Mr. Horn:
It was kind of you to express your good wishes as I begin my duties as President.
While I did not seek this great responsibility, I will not shirk it. Having the support and prayers of fine people like you is a source of strength and encouragement to me.
With kind regards and appreciation for your thoughtfulness,
Sincerely,
Gerald R. Ford
Mr. Fred D. Horn, Sr.
General Conference Secretary
The Central Council
The Brethren Church
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

By the Way

SOMETIMES YOU CAN SEE BETTER WITH ONE EYE

by D. Bruce Lockerbie

The doctor leaned over me until our foreheads pressed together. His tiny beam burned like a searchlight into my right eye, but on my left eye it had no effect at all. When he finally withdrew to utter his findings to a colleague, I felt my bowels give way in horror.

"Multiple hemorrhages with severe impairment of the macula lutea."

I could decode the medical description just well enough to confirm what I already knew: I was suddenly, unaccountably blind in one eye.

Six days before my wife Lory, our son Don, and I had been driving through the Midwest, visiting colleges. Just as we began touring the campus of Albion College in Michigan, I felt a strange cloudiness covering my left eye. At first I dismissed it as dust blown in the eye. Later I supposed it was an insect, so I bought some eye wash at a Walgreen's drug store. Two days later I was troubled enough by the diminishing vision to stop at the emergency room of a Grove City, Pa. hospital. There the nurse assured me that I probably had a "floater." Nothing to worry about.

But by the time we reached Stony Brook and home, I was driving with only one eye, a huge black mass blocking any sight from the other. The next day we went to an eye specialist and heard the facts.

I left that examination in weakness. The prognosis was most discouraging: I was to hold no expectations of restored vision, certainly not for a long time and not without residual scars that would result in partial sight at best. Yet in spite of this discouragement, I began almost immediately to know the power of God in its fulness. I sensed the Peace that passes understanding; I could feel the Everlasting Arms upholding me. In prayer with Lory and later with a few friends, I believed that all things **would** work for good. In my private prayers I claimed the experience of the blind man in Jericho:

> "What do you want me to do for you?"
> "Master," the blind man answered, "I want my sight back."
> Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has cured you." (Mark 10:51-52)

One month later there had been no improvement in my ability to see. I was flying to Rhode Island to speak at Barrington College. The night was rainy, and a misty fog rolled in off Narragansett Bay. As the Boeing 727 taxied to the terminal, I looked out the window and through the murky weather saw a neon sign. In the waves of fog the sign seemed almost to blink on and off: PROVIDENCE. . .PROVIDENCE. . .PROVIDENCE. . . .

And then I knew that, in spite of persevering faith, I'd been guilty nonetheless of a serious mistake. To anyone who had asked me about my vision, I'd been saying, "I've had an **accident** with my eye." Nothing uncommon about my usage, but in that moment, as I sat in that airliner waiting to disembark, I realized for the first time what the theological term **providence** really means. I also recognized how dishonoring to the Lord my attitude had been. For the Lord God, Abraham's Jehovah-jireh, is the God who **provides!**

In a random, chaotic universe where no one is in charge, no one responsible, accidents would be the rule. But the Christian rejects as false any suggestion of an uncaused universe or an uncaring Creator. In the Christian view of Creation, there can be no such thing as an accident; rather, each event—the fall of a sparrow, the loss of sight, the loss of a loved one—is provided for by the God of providence.

This surely is what St. Paul teaches in I Corinthians 10:13:

> So far you have faced no trial beyond what man can bear.
> God keeps faith, and he will not allow you to be tested above your powers, but when the test comes he will at the same time provide a way out. . . .

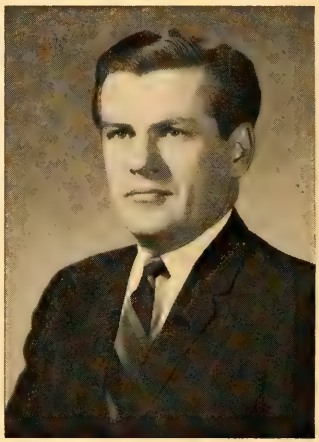
But God's provision of "a way out" isn't evasion or escape from reality. God doesn't promise that our cars will never run out of gas, that our business will never fail, that our bodies will never wear down, that our family will never disappoint us, that loved ones will never die. What he promises is given in the last phrase of Paul's statement—"when the test comes he will at the same time provide a way out, **by enabling you to sustain it.**"

In his gracious providence, the Lord wholly restored my sight in only three months' time, so that like Bartimaeus of Jericho, I too may follow him rejoicing. But God had to use the loss of vision to teach me that sometimes you can see better with one eye than with two.

D. Bruce Lockerbie is a teacher at The Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, New York. His most recent book is THE LIBERATING WORD: ART AND THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL (Eerdmans).

A DECADE TO CELEBRATE THE SEMINARY AND THE CHURCH

by Dr. Joseph R. Shultz
Vice President
Ashland Theological Seminary



"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The blessings of God have manifested themselves in a variety of ways, in various degrees during the past decade in the development program of the Seminary. God has motivated men and provided the means to fulfill His will. The Brethren Church as a part of the Body of Christ in the Kingdom of God has entered into this program with faith and fulfillment.

How does one count the blessings of God? One way in a "created orderly universe" is by measuring past and present. Twenty students a decade ago and three faculty members—today, 130 students and eight fulltime faculty members, plus many adjunct faculty. A theological library of the first order which has grown from five to forty thousand volumes, Brethren Archives, Archaeological collection, etc. An old mansion worth $75,000 to a campus evaluated at approximately one and one-half million. But statistics don't bleed! The blessings of dedicated student graduates who are literally serving the Lord around the world; of highly qualified and dependable faculty giving themselves beyond the call of duty is immeasurable. Who can count the faithfulness and sacrifice of Trustees, Laymen, and W.M.S. members? God can—and to Him be the glory!

As great as all of this is, as wonderful as has been the development of the Seminary—there are still greater and more wonderful God-happenings in the world! The International Congress on World Evangelism at Lausanne focused the mighty movement of God today:

"Some of the fastest growing churches in the world are in Asia. Men's response to the gospel there has thrilled everyone. There are now approximately 70 million Christians in Asia. Half of these are in the Philippine Republic. It is true that seventy million is only a tiny percentage (3%) of Asia's total population; but a more important statistic than absolute numbers must be considered—namely, the rate of growth; that is, the percentage of increase of a group over a given period.

During the first three-quarters of our century Christians in Asia have increased at a rate nearly three times that of non-Christians (2.8% vs. 1.0%). At the beginning of the 20th Century there were 75 non-Christians in Asia for every Christian. Today, this ratio has dropped to 22 to one—one-third of the previous proportion! And it appears that this trend will continue throughout the remainder of this century—clear evidence that the Spirit of God is moving mightily in Asia in our time.

But God's power has been even more dramatically evident in Africa during the 20th Century. At the beginning of this century, only 7½ of Africa's peoples professed the name of Christ. Today, the proportion of Africans who have indicated their allegiance to Jesus has risen to 33% And by the year 2000, just 25 years from now nearly half of the continent will have come under the banner of the Cross!

It was noted above that during the period 1900 1970 Christians in Asia increased at a rate nearly three times that of non-Christians. In Africa during the same period the rate has been almost four times faster! That is, whereas the population of Africa generally is increasing at a rate of 1.2% per year, the Christian community is expanding by 4.6% annually. At the beginning of our century there were 28 non-Christians in Africa for every Christian. Today, there are only 2½—a ten-fold drop! And, as is true with respect to Asia, in Africa also this trend will persist for at least the next 25 years.

Thus, it is probably that by the year 2000 there will be more non-Western Christians in the world than Western! Also, by that date, the center of gravity of Christendom will have shifted from north of the equator to south!!

Part of this shift can be traced to the growing number of evangelicals in Latin America. Latin

America has been a Christian continent for over 400 years. Brazil, for example, is the world's largest Catholic country. Within Latin America during the 20th Century overall church growth has resulted not merely from normal population increases but from the multiplication of evangelical communities. The current population growth rate in Latin America is about 3%—the highest in the world. Among evangelicals, however, the growth rate in recent years has been 10%! In other words, evangelicals are expanding three times faster than the population at large!"

One of the most exciting developments of our time is the emergence of "Missionaries from the Third World." Christian bodies from Asia, India, Oceania, Africa, and South America have grasped the Gospel concept of sending their own missionaries to not only their own people and culture but also to cross-culture people. On a bus in Lausanne, there was a young Japanese, Rev. Koya who was a missionary to Malaysia. In the hall of the Palais, a handsome Argentine was explaining his mission to Columbia. It is reported that the "Third World" has more than 200 agencies which have sent out more than 3,000 missionaries. The goal of the Indian Christian delegates is 10,000 missionaries by 2000.

Rev. Juan Carlos-Ortiz of Argentina thrilled the delegates by describing how his church grew from 400 to 1200 dedicated members. A few years ago, he went to the mountains to pray and fast, to wait on the Lord for specific direction. He entered into a covenant to identify the spiritual gift of each layman and equip him for a ministry. The Lord regrouped us into two groups: those who love one another, and those who don't love one another." The Lord said it is easy to tell; "By this shall ye know . . . if ye have love for one another." The Lord categorized the followers into sheep and goats. "The sheep put heads together and love—the goats butt each other. You don't need intelligent discernment to tell sheep from goats." Rev. Ortiz revolutionized his church by the same age-old principles of the Believers' Church—**Grace, Love, Scriptures, Witness,** and **Lay Participation.**

Dr. I. Ben Wait described Asia as promising politically, economically, and socially. However, in the religious sphere, it is explosive. The Scripture is now translated into 30 Asian languages. 1,060 people were baptized in one day, 5,000 new converts from a single city baptized in 1973. Baptism at midnight in Calcutta, in plush pools in New Delhi. The U.S. has promised a satellite for the educational program of India next year. Every village can piece together some rods and chicken wire to receive his education for the first time in the nation's history. The O.M.S. trained 200,000 to witness to five each Good Friday. 1,000,000 received Scriptures and tracts on one **Good** Friday!!

Dr. Byong from Nigeria stated the very real possibility of all of Africa south of the equator being fifty percent Christian in a decade. During the past decade, many Africans thought their new nationalism would bring freedom and liberty of mind and heart. Instead, it brought war and disappointment. Now, the African is seeking theologically for the truth of life. Receptivity to the Gospel is excellent.

Did I hear a sigh of relief from American Christians and Mission Board members?? Can we now assume that since the Third World to whom the Western Christian body has sent the Gospel for so long has come into their own leadership—we can retire? Never!! The total resources of both the Western world and the Third World missionaries are needed to make a mark in the Hindu society of 500 million people, to break the bleeding wall of the Moslem world of 608 million people, to touch 267 million Buddhists, and 305 million Confucianists. And what about China with 700 million people, and Europe where only five percent practice Christian faith at best? There are over 3.9 billion people in the world, increasing by 75 million per year. During the Lausanne Conference of ten days, the world population increased by 1, 853,531 people. "For, everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." "But how are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:13-14)

Right now, the African is seeking. In recent years, 100 new church sects have emerged in Africa. Other religions are pouring resources into the battle whereby Moslem and Hinduism are growing. The African is susceptible to taking the best from each for a kind of fatal Universalism, the charismatic movement in the form of "tongues" was tried but experienced to be only one minor gift among many! People do go to church. Children are eager to learn. Mass media is upon them. In Kenya, the T.V. programs have offered three programs of Christianity each week. Some Christian literature is available; however, non-Christian literature is available free. The future dynamic and course of Christianity in Africa is being determined right now. Pray, and pray some more for the dynamic Christian movement in Africa!

Bishop Kwengere of Uganda declared that the "Dry Evangelicalism—and Evangelicals can be dry spiritually—in Uganda has come alive. Yes, the world is sick, but God does not have any problems —only plans. There is no panic in heaven!!"

Corrie Ten Boom—"The Tramp for the Lord" of Holland, referred to Colossians I and said, "This is not a suggestion but a command. The Bible doesn't suggest—it commands." **"Christ has born our "burdens"; therefore, we shouldn't waste our time with burdens when we are to be "cross-bearers—fruit bearers."** The world is in a titanic spiritual warfare, and Christ is the only answer for the sagging, dying world.

Ashland Theological Seminary praises God for being a viable part of this dynamic decade. The Seminary has a call and mission to fulfill the same way an individual and church has. Like Paul, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel" . . . so the Seminary has a "woe" of receiving, loving, preparing, and sending all qualified men and women into the world for which Christ died. **May the Seminary never be deterred from its task as ordained by God—as stated by its Founders—nor intimidated by the faint-hearted from its task of preparing men and women for the Gospel ministry for the WHOLE world.**

(*continued on next page*)

THE CHURCH

I. THE MISSION OF THE SEMINARY AND CHURCH

The **mission** of the Ashland Theological Seminary and the Brethren Church are one and the same. "Mission" is an activity of God arising out of the very nature of God. The living God of the Bible is a sending God, which is what mission means. He sent the prophet to Israel. He sent His Son into the world. His Son sent out the apostles, and then the seventy, and the Church. He also sent the Spirit to the church and sends Him into our hearts today. God did not come to the world as an astronaut to "touch down," but as a suffering Saviour **into the world, for the world.** As the **mission of God in Christ could be achieved only by entering into the world, so the mission of the Seminary and the Brethren Church can be achieved by entering into—"cross-culturing" the world.** The Biblical concept of "separation" is from idols and Satan, a separation for service, not separation "to be a better Christian." Christ sends us into the world to serve—as He came to serve. The Great Commission of evangelizing (evangelizomai) does not explain, exhaust, nor supercede the Great Commandment of "Loving the Lord thy God . . . and thy neighbor" but fulfills it. "Little children, let us not love in word or speech but in deed and truth." (I John 3:17). As stated by Dr. Peter Beyerhaus, "Evangelism is the only answer to the collective suicide of men."

II. THE GOAL OF A.T.S. AND THE CHURCH

The goal of A.T.S. and the Brethren Church are the same—Preaching the Gospel. The world without Christ is perishing on a straight course to suicide. Hell is an awful and eternal reality, spoken of by both Christians and non-Christians with glibness and frivolity. How can we even think about hell without tears? (Painting in Prado Museum, Madrid, "The Ante-Deluvium" by Bosch). The announcement of the Good News of salvation requires a response—"turning to the Lord" (Acts 9:35; 11:21). Sinners turn to the Lord and then enter the "ecclesia"—not the reverse! The Lord accepts a person because of his "faith," not his earthly "fashion." In our culture according to the author of **God's Lively People, "We seem to expect new converts to abandon their contemporary behavior and adopt a new lifestyle which turns out to be not new but old.** The new Christian has to learn the old hymns and appreciate them. He has to learn the language of the pulpit. He has to share in some conservative political opinions. He has to dress a bit old-fashioned. . . . In brief, he has to step back two generations and undergo what we may call a painful cultural circumcision."

A goodly number of highly-motivated, well-educated, dedicated Gospel men in the Seminary are looking for a church home and a place to minister the Gospel. The Brethren in Christ, the United Methodist, and the Presbyterian Churches have "loved-in" a number of these men in recent years who are serving successfully in pastorates and mission fields. **The Brethren Church would do well to open its arms and pulpits to these men. Genuine lasting love is a mutual affair; however, the initiative rests with the church!** It is especially urgent that the Brethren Church take initiative in seeking men of God as ministers since at the present time, there are fewer Brethren pre-Seminary students. More important than the fact of fewer pre-Seminary students is the fact that they are not interested in a "proclaiming ministry" but some "other" (unclear and unindentified) form of ministry. The sound of the trumpet is not clear.

After a decade of development, some are asking about the "product" of the Seminary. A good question! For example, during the past eighteen months, one of the graduates pastored a church and built it from thirty members to one hundred fifty, and also built a totally new sanctuary and educational building. (C.M.A.) One student began a new mission church and grew from 0 to 35 in a garage (U.B.). One took an old congregation of 18 and "grew it" to 200 (Baptist), and one is relocating an established church (Presbyterian). Why aren't these Brethren churches? Since the graduates of the Seminary are serving quite successfully in a variety of ministries, the question of Brethren church gowth—or the lack of it—is more complex than Seminary graduates or the ministry. **The Seminary has taught — and exemplified — every principle of church growth during the decade—a decade to celebrate.** We praise God for the privilege of providing new missionaries for new missions in the Brethren Church.

The Brethren Church, as all Christian churches, has the primary responsibility of raising "sons and daughters" for the Lord's work. Why isn't the Brethren Church inspiring and calling more young men into the Christian ministry? Is it her preaching, her lifestyle, her homes, her youth programs, her programs of Bible study in Christian education??? Has the Brethren Church lost her persuasion Bible preaching, her attractive lifestyle of grace, love, her attitude of hope, her exultation of the victory of Christ? It may be well for the Conferences, the various Boards of the Church and the local congregations to spend time identifying the cause of the problem and assigning resources to solve them. However, at the same time we want to give thanks and praise for all the wonderful men and women of the Brethren Church who are preparing for the Gospel ministry!—and those who support!

Ashland Theological Seminary

GOSPEL LIGHT ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS IN SALES STAFF

Several new appointments and promotions were made in Gospel Light's Marketing Division this fall, according to the division's Sales Manager, William O. Noller.



OLIVER P. STRONG of Northboro, Massachusetts has been named Regional Sales Representative in the New England States. Mr. Strong comes well qualified to his new position, having been involved with the promotion of Gospel Light curriculum for the past five and one half-years with Home Evangel Books, Ltd., in Canada, where he served as Christian Education consultant. As a Christian Education consultant he will be available to churches as time permits in his new role with Gospel Light. He will work through the bookstores and represent Gospel Light at conferences and conventions.

Mr. Strong is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, received a B.S. degree from Houghton College and an M.A. in Christian Education at Wheaton College.



FRANK K. MAPES of Bedford, Texas has been appointed Regional Sales Representative of the South Central States. In G/L's expanding field program Mr. Mapes will work through Christian bookstores and be available to represent the company to colleges and churches in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and Texas.

A native of Idaho, Mr. Mapes attended schools in California and was graduated from Bethany Bible College in Santa Cruz. During the past 12 years he has served as associate pastor with a Christian Education portfolio. Also Mr. Mapes has worked with national, state and regional Christian Education conferences and organizations.



DAN JACKSON, who has served as Gospel Light's Southwestern Regional Sales Director for the past two years, has been promoted to Manager of G/L's Field and Dealer Services Program.

In his new position Mr. Jackson will coordinate G/L's product representation and services to local churches, Sunday School conventions and conferences and local Christian Bookseller-sponsored events.



BETTY PERSHING, a veteran of 20 years with Gospel Light and widely known by the dealers, has been appointed Dealer Services Coordinator. She is well known across the country through participation in workshops. In her new position she will coordinate G/L's service to dealers and Special Accounts, which include catalog and overseas accounts. Presently Gospel Light has distributors in Toronto, London, Johannesburg, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Sydney and Auckland.



CARYL HART, widely known by dealers throughout North America as secretary of G/L's Field Services, will be working with Mr. Jackson in the Marketing Division. She will continue her vital role in making arrangements in both local church and convention appointments.

SIGNAL LIGHTS PROGRAM FOR NOVEMBER

BIBLE THEME:

Friends

MISSION PROJECT:

Radio Programs and Literature for Spanish Speaking Americans

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

Ruth Finds Friends

Bible Story: Ruth Finds Friends

(Have on the bulletin board pictures of people reaping and gleaning grain as they did in Bible days. Have, too, a picture of a modern harvest for comparison.)

Ruth was lonely. Her husband was dead and she was living in a strange country. In her country of Moab she had had many friends. But Naomi, her mother-in-law, had wanted to move to her old home in Bethlehem. Buth had come with her. It was harvest time when they arrived in Bethlehem.

"Our food is almost gone, Mother Naomi," said Ruth. "May I go to the fields to glean?"

"Yes, my daughter, you may go," replied Naomi.

There were no machines to harvest the grain in those days. It was cut and tied in bundles by people working for the owner of the field. It was the custom to leave any grain that fell on the ground. The poor of the community could come and gather the fallen grain. This was called gleaning.

Ruth stopped at a field owned by Boaz.

"May I follow the reapers and gather the grain that falls to the ground?" she asked one of the workers.

"Yes, you may follow them. You may glean in this field," said the man kindly.

All morning Ruth followed the gleaners back and forth across the field.

At noon Boaz came to look at his field. "You are working well," he told the reapers. "Come and eat now." He smiled at Ruth. "You may eat with us, too. You may come to my field every day to gather grain."

The reapers were kind to Ruth. They often dropped extra grain for her as they tied the grain into sheaves.

The other gleaners were kind to her also. They talked to her in a friendly way.

Ruth was humming happily that evening as she walked down the road toward home. She and Naomi would have plenty to eat now for she was carrying a basket of grain she had gleaned. And besides that she had made new friends.

"Thank You, God," she whispered as she hurried home to tell Naomi.

—Based on Ruth 2

Memory Verse: Psalm 126:3

As Ruth hurried to show Naomi the grain and to tell her of her new friends perhaps she was singing our new memory verse.

"The Lord has done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

A Visit

Mission Story: A Visit

"Good morning, Grandmother," greeted Rev. Curtis.

"Good morning," she replied in not a very friendly tone.

"Is Jorge home?" asked Rev. Curtis.

"Yes," answered Grandmother.

"May I see him?" Rev. Curtis inquired.

Without another word to Rev. Curtis, Grandmother turned from the door.

"Jorge," she said to someone in the house, "that evangelical is here again."

"Rev. Curtis, how nice to see you again," said the seventeen year old boy as he came to the door. "Come, let us sit here on the step and visit."

So Rev. Curtis and Jorge sat on the steps and visited. They talked about the weather. They talked about their families. They talked about many things, but most of all they talked about Jesus.

"Here are some tracts for you to read," said Rev. Curtis as he stood up to leave. "Here is also a copy of the Gospel of John. I'll be back in a few days to talk some more."

"Thank you," replied Jorge. "I'll read them all. Grandmother doesn't like for me to read your literature. She says it isn't for Mexicans. But I like what it tells me about Jesus. Come again soon."

Jorge waved as Rev. Curtis drove out of sight.

Rev. Curtis visited with Jorge many times. Grandmother never seemed pleased to see him. But Jorge was. He wanted to learn more about Jesus.

One day when Rev. Curtis returned from his visit he hurried into the house calling, "Good news, Fran!"

Mrs. Curtis came from the kitchen. "What is it?" she asked. "Tell me the good news."

"Jorge has accepted Jesus as his Savior," he told her.

"Praise the Lord! That is good news," said Mrs. Curtis. "And Grandmother? What about Grandmother?"

Rev. Curtis shook his head. "She still refuses to talk with me. We will pray that the changes she sees in Jorge will help her to decide to accept Jesus, too."

(Encourage the children to pray for Grandmother and other Mexican-Americans who do not know Jesus. Remind them that the Signal Lights offering will be used to help tell these people of God's love.)

GOD LOOKS WITHIN THE HEART

It matters not the least to God
If we are black or white.
He looks within the heart of man
With sort of x-ray sight.

He breathed into each one of us
A timeless, living soul.
To live forever with the Lord
Should be our aim and goal.

He made men just the way they are
For reasons of His own.
He gave His Son for every race,
And not for one alone.

So, let us take our brother's hand,
As on this earth we tread,
For we are equal in God's sight,
White, yellow, black or red.

Norman McPherson

SISTERHOOD

SENIOR SISTERHOOD
NOVEMBER

by Mrs. Pat Richey

TO KNOW HIM

Man Dies to Save Stranger!

"Even if we were good, we really wouldn't expect anyone to die for us, though of course, that might be barely possible. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since by his blood he did all this for us as sinners, how much more will he do for us now that he has declared us not guilty? Now he will save us from all of God's wrath to come. And since, when we were his enemies, we were brought back to God by the death of his Son, what blessings he must have for us now that we are his friends, and he is living within us!

Now we rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God—all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done in dying for our sins—making us friends of God."*

LEADER'S NOTE: At this time please divide the group into four small groups even if there would be only one in each group. Each group should have it's own Bible or New Testament. Assign each group one of the questions for discussion below. Allow approximately five minutes for the groups to read their Bible reference and work out their answer.

QUESTIONS

1. What effect does the sin that Adam sinned have on us today? How do we know that Adam was to blame? Study Romans 5:12-14.
2. For what purpose was the Ten Commandments given? What now rules over sin? Who is responsible for this gift of right standing and eternal life? Study Romans 5:20-21

*Romans 5:7-11 from the Living Bible

3. What are the contrasts (things that are opposite between Adam and Christ? Study Romans 5: 14b-19 What effect do these have on us?
4. What makes us right in God's sight? What benefits does the one who has faith receive? For what can that person rejoice? Why? Study Romans 5:1-5

LEADER'S NOTE: When the time is finished, bring the group back together. Read the above questions out loud for the whole group and then allow those who studied that portion of the scripture to respond. If the answers are not plain or there are questions about the answer given have the whole group read that portion of scripture and discuss what they feel the Bible is saying. Allow fifteen to twenty minutes for the discussion time.)

LEADER'S NOTE: Read the following paragraphs to the group.

As you finish your discussion over the Romans 5 passage it is hoped that you will understand a little more of the place you have in the Family of God. Should you not be a member of His family yet, as you join with the others of this group in prayer it is my prayer for you that the Holy Spirit will cause you to have a desire to join God's Family. Ask God right now to take you into His Family, to remove your sins and guilt and to give you the life eternal that He has promised to those who come to Him believing that He has done this for them.

If you cannot pray with this whole group of girls, then go to one girl whom you know can help you, or the patroness of your group, or the pastor of your church.

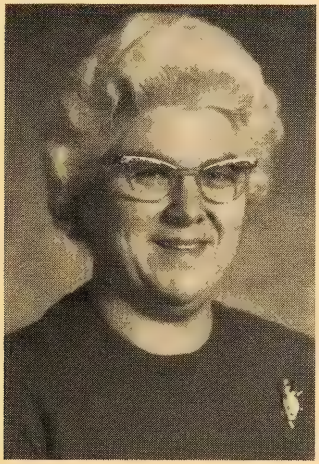
I am praying for you.

Signed Pat

LEADER'S NOTE: At this time assemble your group to pray together in your favorite way. If your group is large you may split the group into two groups and separate them for more personal involvement in the prayers.

JUNIOR SISTERHOOD
NOVEMBER

by Mrs. Pauline Benshoff



Mrs. Pauline Benshoff is the wife of Rev. St. Clair Benshoff, Pastor of The First Brethren Church, Muncie, Indiana. She teaches the Youth and College Sunday-School class in addition to serving as organist when called upon.

She is the piano half of the well-known Benshoff organ-piano duo who have often been heard at General Conferences and in many churches throughout the denomination.

She is presently serving on the Children and Youth Commission of the National Board of Christian Education and on the Special Committee for Music of the General Conference Organization.

We welcome Mrs. Benshoff to the family of contributors to THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST. (Editor's Note)

GOD'S REVELATION AND MY REACTION

Opening thot:

Willing am I, and ready alway
Willing am I, His Word to obey,
Willing am I, to speak in His Name
Willing His love abroad to proclaim.
Willing to do what Jesus requires
Willing to go where Jesus desires
Willing to serve Him, ready alway
Speak to me Master, I will obey.—

Opening Choruses:

To Be Like Jesus
Following Jesus
If You Want Joy
God is So Good

(These choruses are all found in the YOUTH FAVORITES except the last.)

Topic I: **GOD SPEAKS TO ME**

My scripture is taken from Psalm 34:1-4, 15, 17. (Read aloud) When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, people thought him crazy because it had never been done before and they thought it an impossibility. They just weren't used to talking to people unless they could see them. After people used the phone to talk to their families and friends, they soon learned that it worked. Well, talking to God may seem impossible too, but it isn't. True, you can't see Him or touch Him, but you know He is there. God really talks to us as we allow Him to reveal thoughts, ideas and actions. Our greatest hindrance is that we aren't always ready to listen. We may even think "Oh, He can't do anythiing about it anyway. "But you are wrong. He **can** do something. He **wants** to do something to help and He will do something about it if we just let Him. We only need to **learn to listen** and **seek Him.** So, as simple as it may seem, God speaks to me through my prayer life. My scripture said "I sought the Lord and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears." Guess it's my move!

Topic II: **PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE**

I will read Romans 10:13-17. Follow along in your Bible and listen as I read. Sometimes I talk to people about Jesus but they just turn me off real fast. They think I'm some sort of wier-do of sorts. This is what Paul is speaking about in this passage. You see God has provided a way of salvation for everyone, but not everyone wants to accept Him on His terms. We must continue to tell the GOOD NEWS anyway. God will help us, for He has no other way here in the earth for people to hear unless we who know Him and have experienced all the wonderful things He has done for us, get excited about it and tell all our friends and neighbors all about Him. That is my job as a Christian. God uses the people-to-people method. Do you need courage to speak to someone else? I do too. So pray about it. God speaks through

ministers, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, Sisterhood patronnesses, mothers, dads, brothers, sisters, just through people like me. Hope I can speak to someone soon. Don't you?

RELAX AND SING: He Keeps Me Singing

Topic III: **GOD LOVES US**

God loves you and me and has a wonderful plan for our lives. His plan is written in John 10:10b as Christ says—"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Most people can't experience an abundant life because they try to reach God through a **good life and works, but Romans 3:23 says,** "For **all** have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And Romans 6:23 says "For the wages of sin is death." God wants man to have fellowship with Him, but sin separates man from God. "God proves His love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." In Romans 5:8—. Then in John 14:6, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." And finally, John 1:12 says "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." So you see God speaks to us also through His Word, the Bible.

Topic IV: **MY REACTION—APPRECIATION**

Let me read from Psalm 105:1-5. We are to give thanks unto the Lord, make known His deeds unto the people, sing to Him and talk about His wondrous works, glory in His name. Our hearts should rejoice always, for when we seek God He gives us strength in place of weakness. We are to remember His works that He has done; His wonders and the judgment of His mouth. You see everything was and is created by God, so to Him we owe our Thanks. What do you count worth thanking Him for? Let's list a few to start you thinking. We didn't appreciate a sky that is always blue, so we have to have a storm or two. Do you remember to count breathing as one of your blessings? Well there are many persons who can't breathe outside an iron lung. So think about it. You can't send to the corner drugstore for a can of breath, only God provides it. How about your sight? Wouldn't it be difficult to not be able to see anyone, anything, ever? Look at your hands. Flex your fingers. They all work. And your mind, you can learn. Isn't that wonderful? And Jesus who paid the price for your sins. These are only a few. It is so easy to see the things we **don't** have and overlook the many things we **do** have. Make it a habit to count **all** your blessings **often.** I'll be surprised if you can ever name them all. Sometime when you feel blue, write a Gratitude List and it'll make you feel so good to see how God blessed you that you will soon forget the "blues." Start tonight. Share them.

(PS—We've made an effort to help you enjoy your meetings more this year and gain some spiritual help. Each part is designed to encourage serious thinking.)

BUSINESS
BENEDICTION
FELLOWSHIP

Mrs. Pauline Benshoff,
Muncie, Indiana

READERS make LEADERS



Women's Libbers may be up in arms about Dal Evans Rogers' new book (WHERE HE LEADS Revell, $3.95) but many other readers will applau her sentiments. A recent visit to the Middle Eas made Dale aware of how "lucky and free we wes ern females are," compared with the woman sh saw in Nazareth, trudging the dusty streets o foot, arms burdened with baby and bundles, whil her husband rode ahead on a donkey!

Today's woman, Dale affirms, was liberated b a Man from Nazareth 2,000 years ago, but no has somehow forgotten to get her values straigh The most important task facing every marrie woman, she believes, is to be a devoted wife an loving mother, to create a home of harmony an grace infused by the Spirit of God. Only the can modern woman become truly liberated.

WHERE HE LEADS is actually a travelogue o Dale's recent journey to Europe and the Hol Land, liberally sprinkled with fascinating bits o information about her Christian witnessing, he personal philosophy, her family, friends an career. A bit different from her past literary suc cesses (which include twelve books, together sel ing more than four million copies), this work i dedicated to Dale's 84-year-old mother as a tribut to her Christian upbringing and includes man references to current events. How many America visitors have been asked, on the spur of th moment, to sing to co-passengers aboard a steame crossing the Sea of Galilee? How many author have slept in Adolph Hitler's hotel suite i Berchtesgaden and bathed in his oversized tub How many mothers have been invited to speak o God in the foreign country where a son has give his life? How many travelers have the wisdo to fight the sickness and fatigue by concentratin instead on the power and glory of Jesus and Hi love?

Dale Evans Rogers knows that some peopl question the depth and sincerity of her faitl simply because she lives in the limelight an confesses publicly. But she knows, too, that he Christian belief is what has sustained her throug the deaths of her children, divorce, her mother' cancer, a brother's fatal illness, years of har work. Ultimately, her life has become richly satis fying and meaningful by following where H leads.

The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR NOVEMBER

NO ROOM IN THE INN

It happened in London! The headlines of the Daily Mail read: "No Room At The Inn For Envoy."

What actually happened was that the British government had prepared a suite for a foreign minister from Africa in the luxurious Carlton Tower Hotel, but when his highness saw the suite, it was not to his liking. He was then offered a larger suite but had to wait until the larger room was made up. He waited, but considered his treatment as an insult! He left for home the next day feeling he had been "snubbed" by the British government—which was by no means intentional. Did he consider that he should have been allotted to the very best room in the hotel in the first place?

As we read the headlines in the British newspaper, our minds traveled to a still greater dignitary who literally was given no room in the inn at Bethlehem, many years ago!

When the Lord Jesus came from His home in Heaven to this earth, He was not only denied room in the inn at Bethlehem, but He knew what it was to be seriously snubbed—even to be crucified! But He came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

He would say to us: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Have you ever wondered why the Lord Jesus left the glories of heaven with His Father and took upon Him a human form and came as a Babe to Bethlehem?

He gave us part of the answer in John 10:10 when He said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Again He said: "If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke (or excuse) for their sin." (John 15:22)

He did come to earth. He gave His life to atone for our sins and now all who fail to acknowledge Him as Savior will have no excuse when they are condemned. He said they would be convicted "of sin because they believe not on me." (John 16:9)

They rejected God's beloved Son and crucified Him, and God holds them responsible for their attitude of denial.

Shall we then not open the heart's door and give Him room—yes, the largest, the very best room?

MISSIONARY NEWS

CHURCH GROWTH AND CHURCH EXTENSION



by John D. Rowsey

Church Growth is a term we have been hearing more and more within the Brethren Church as increasing numbers of the Brethren express their concern for the lack of growth within the denomination and indicate a desire and commitment to make the church grow. In the last issue of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST we reprinted an article by C. Peter Wagner on the changing concepts of evangelism and describes "church growth" principles as "body evangelism." If you didn't read the article why not go back and look it up? One of the major emphases of the church growth movement—or body evangelism if you will—is the stress on extension growth as well as expansion growth. Many are convinced that effective evangelism in the future will come through multiplying churches rather than just enlarging present congregations. In fact one expert has stated, that if you see a large church that is growing you will find that it is really made up of many smaller groups or churches within the larger organization.

What does this have to do with church growth for the Brethren? First let's talk about expansion growth. Some of the Brethren Churches have held Church Growth workshops in their churches this fall. In April the Missionary Board sponsored a Church Growth Seminar for most of the Home Mission pastors. The Missionary Board continues to work with all of the present mission churches to provide materials and encouragement as well as evaluation, all aimed at promoting expansion growth principally through evangelism or conversion growth and the making of disciples or responsible members. The purpose is not just to have a larger church but to help these churches grow to not only become a self supporting body but to become an enthusiastic, dynamic force in their own communities, fulfilling the Great Commission in an effective way where they are.

The most recent example of extension growth has been the establishing of the new church in Bradenton, Florida by the Sarasota church. Sarasota provided the original members and has assumed the financial responsibility for Bradenton until they can become self supporting. The denomination, through the Missionary Board, has provided financial aid by a Ten Dollar Club call and a loan from the Brethren Home Missions Revolving Fund as well as providing counsel and guidance as it would for other home mission churches.

We have other churches in the denomination which could reach out to nearby areas in extension growth, committing themselves to the financial support of the new church and working with the Missionary Board to supply other resources as needed. Why do we need to wait for the financial resources of the whole denomination to be channeled through the Missionary Board to start one church where we already have Brethren churches nearby which could do the job with a little commitment. Why can't we expect local churches to start daughter churches where needed and still support a national HOME MISSION outreach to other areas in the United States.

Look again at the map on the cover of this issue. The areas where the Brethren Church **is not** call out to us. The isolated churches in the western areas especially, with their tremendous distances between churches, call for assistance from the brotherhood. Can we respond? Yes, through the care and concern of the HOME MISSIONS program.

Brethren, how great is our faith and commitment? Are we willing to accept the task which the Lord has given to us? Do we have the faith to say that the Brethren Church can grow in the United States or do we believe it will only happen overseas? If we believe it can happen are we willing to commit ourselves to the task? Read the testimonies which follow from three of our newer churches, pray about your personal responsibility for church growth and then commit yourself to the possibilities for growth in your local community and to the support of the national HOME MISSION—CHURCH EXTENSION PROGRAM through the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

CHURCH GROWTH NEWS FROM THE "SUNSHINE STATE!"



Rev. Russell Gordon, installed as pastor of the Bradenton Church by Rev. C. A. Stewart. Mrs. Gordon is also shown.

by Rev. Russell Gordon

The Bradenton Brethren Church is proof that when people are willing, God will use them to reach others with the good news about His son, Jesus Christ! About two years ago a group of Brethren from the Sarasota Brethren Church along with their pastor, Dr. J. D. Hamel, felt in a very strong way God's leading to start a Brethren Church in the Bradenton, Florida, area. After much prayer and searching of their own hearts, this group of about 26 Brethren felt it was God's will that they take this step of faith. On May 27, 1973, the first service of the Bradenton Brethren Church was held in the South County Youth and Recreation Center. The Sarasota Church, after discussion with the national Brethren Missionary Board, voted to give all of their Home Missions offerings to this, their daughter church. Because of this support the national Missionary Board serves as an advisor to the Bradenton Church, with the only support from the Board being in the form of the recent Ten Dollar Club Call ($10,823.00 received for which we thank all of the Brethren), and a loan from the Brethren Home Missions Revolving Loan Fund. Rev. William Ross served as interim pastor for the church until I was called as their first full-time pastor, arriving on the field in January of 1974. From the very beginning the people of the church realized that the reason for their being was to reach this area for Jesus Christ, and they have not lost sight of that goal. A recent eight week period saw fourteen people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as a result of those in the church allowing God to work through them. In July of 1974, four and three tenths acres of land was purchased directly across the road from the Youth Center in which the Sunday services have been continually held. Plans call for the start of a church building on this property within the next year. Until the building becomes a reality, the midweek service will continue to be held in the homes of members of the church. Due to the limited facilities, the need for a building is great, but it is the desire of the congregation that nothing be done until God shows in a very clear way that it is His will. We are sure that God will lead us in the direction that He would have us to go and, therefore do not have to worry about tomorrow, but simply live in His will today.

As a congregation we want to once again thank all of the Brethren for their support of our church through the recent Ten Dollar Club. This money has been used to reduce the debt on the property. Also, our thanks to our mother church, the Sarasota Brethren and their pastor, for their continual support. Praise the Lord! He is at work through His people not only in Bradenton, but everywhere!



Temporary meeting place of the Bradenton Brethren Church.

GO DERBY GROW!

a Testimony by Rev George W. Solomon

"Lord, what would you have me to do?" Paul asked this question many, many years ago. And he found out that it was not easy to discover and not easy to do what God wanted him to do. And it was not without great difficulty that the decision was made to leave the pastorate of the Park Street Brethren Church a little over a year ago and move a 1,000 miles west to the geographic center of the U.S.—a place where we had never been, to minister to people we had not even met. Ashland represents many things for us. It is where most of our children and grandchildren are located. It is the place in which we have many very dear friends—more there than anywhere else. It is the hub of activity for the Brethren Church—the place where its heart can be heard and felt the best. It is a place dear to our hearts. But dearer to our hearts is the answer the Apostle Paul sought on the Damascus Road when he asked "Lord, what would You have me to do?"

For a long time I had experienced an inward desire to work in a Home Mission endeavor. As the years rolled by (and I grew older) I thought maybe this was self desire rather than the will of God seeking to find expression. But then one day I revealed this long, unrealized desire and someone in Missions heard about it. The Mission Board approached us about other opportunities of Home Mission work and we sought the leading of the Lord in this matter. But not until the call came concerning Derby, Kansas did we feel the clear leading of the Lord to accept.

We arrived in Derby the last week of June in 1973 and found a small group of people (29 members—some not attending) eager to do the work of the Lord, but somewhat discouraged by past experiences of disappointment and frustration. An indebtedness, large for so few people, weighted heavily upon them even though the Mission Board was helping to carry it.

The months of July and August were spent getting settled, taking some vacation and attending General Conference. By September we were ready to move into the work believing that the Lord had called us and that He would bless our labors if we were faithful—AND HE HAS!

Several things were undertaken immediately. We asked the people to begin praying in earnest that God would open doors for us. As the pastor, I began to put legs on these prayers in a door bell ringing program which took me door to door seeking to find unsaved and unchurched people and to acquaint them with the Brethren Church. (The Brethren Church isn't very well known in Kansas—4 churches in the entire state). My immediate goal was to ring at least 100 door bells each month. We also established a program of seeking to involve ONE NEW FAMILY EACH MONTH in our church. We laid this claim before the Lord and He honored it. At least one new family became involved in some way each month beginning in September 1973 and continuing through July 1974 (August 1974, while we were on vacation and attending General Conference was the only month in which we failed to involve a new family). This does not mean that all became members—some have and some have not. Some are still attending and some are not for one reason or another.



Rev. George W. Solomon

As a result of all this, the work is growing! The average attendances have doubled for the Sunday morning services; the Sunday evening service has shown a little gain and our mid-week Bible Study has nearly quadrupled in attendance. We now have 64 on our S.S. roll and our church membership has grown to 50. We are still small, but the Lord continues to bless and doors of opportunity are still opening for us! And for this we are praising God! The attitude of the people has changed. We now believe we can grow! This is attested to by the goals the congregation recently set for themselves. On Sunday evening, June 23, 1974 we had a fellowship dinner following which we reviewed the past record of the church growth (or lack of it). We then recounted what the Lord had done in the past 12 months and we rejoiced at the church growth already taking place. Together, as "ONE BODY IN CHRIST," we prayerfully discussed what God would have us establish as goals for our church in the future. The following is the result of that effort.

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
MEMBERSHIP GOALS	60	80	125	175	250
ATTENDANCE GOALS					
Sunday School	75	100	150	200	300
Worship Hour	75	100	150	200	300
Evening Service	45	60	80	100	125
Mid-week	35	50	75	100	125

To some who read this, these may seem to be beyond expectation (I think a few of our people found it difficult to project themselves through five years of growth in which the Lord's blessings were to be upon His church). But our God is able! He is big enough! If only His people will believe and trust and, expecting great things from God, attempt great things for God.

David and Deanna Benshoff (our daughter and son-in-law) moved to Derby several months ahead of us as lay workers to provide additional help and leadership for this church. They have been a tremendous help and I don't know what we would have done, or would do now, without them! David is doing a great job as Sunday School Superintendent. Last year he served as president of our Laymen's group. Deanna is church organist and was recently elected to serve as president of the W.M.S. Both of them serve as Youth Directors and do many other things such as helping to visit and continue contacts with young couples in the community. The Lord has given them real joy as they seek to fulfill Life Work Recruit commitments made in their teens but never realized until now. This joy radiates from their lives and is contageous Praise God for them!

It has not been easy for my wife to be so far from the children and grandchildren. It has not been easy for our 2 youngest sons to make the transition. But even in these things, God is the great enabler and I thank Him that they understand and accept the role of a pastor's family. And I am thankful for the many contributions that each of them have made, and continue to make to the life and work of the church. God has convinced us that we are where He wants us for this present time by richly blessing our labors together with the Brethren here in Derby.



Derby Brethren Church

Home Missions is a viable part of the Brethren Church's outreach ministry. Support it with your prayers! Undergird it with your gifts! And encourage young people to consider moving into and settling in areas where new Brethren Churches are being planted!

A STEP OF FAITH

by Rev. Paul Tinkel



Church-house where the Fort Wayne Church began.

Our first hand experience with the Fort Wayne Church came with our arrival as pastor on September 5, 1972, and with one other family, held worship services and mid-week prayer and Bible study. During the summer of 1973, a Children's Learning Center was conducted with Brethren Summer Crusaders being with us continually during these months.

We searched for land for a future building for more and all doors seemed to be closed. In March of 1974, we had a special calling program in the community, calling on forty homes, four different times, with a different couple calling each time without a single visitor—all leading to much discouragement. Then came an opening to purchase a church parsonage and seven acres of

land but at what seemed an impossible price. Almost jokingly, it was mentioned to the District Mission Board. Wheels began to turn and at the 1974 Indiana District Conference, after a presentation by members of the Board, the delegates voted to take the leap of faith and support the purchase of this property by giving ten dollars per member for at least two years with a potential continuation of this giving towards other new churches in the district.

With this faith action, the District Mission Board proceeded with the purchase and placed $10,000.00 of its funds as a down payment. Presently, members of the Board are going into each Indiana church, presenting the need and asking for local support for a payment on October 1st of $40,000.00. The present parsonage and house used for a church have been sold with an equity of $24,000.00, to go towards the second payment of $27,000.00, due in January, 1975. We are praying that the entire unit might be debt free of the remaining $70,000.00, in 1976. The local congregation is responsible for all local cost of operation other than pastoral support which is presently cared for by the national and district Mission Boards together, but which the local congregation plans to assume as they grow.

We are hoping to have Brethren from the district visit each Sunday for several weeks (first service October 6, 1974), to help fill the church and assist in welcoming visitors coming for the first time. We would also be interested in contacting any church with a second organ (or replacing one) for use in this new mission church.

The local township, St. Joe, is the fastest growing township in the state of Indiana and seventh fastest growing in the country. With much prayer and help of Brethren everywhere, we ask the Lord to give us **souls** for this great **harvest field** which He has opened for us to work. Young people might also consider Ft. Wayne for enployment to also help in establishing this new church. We need **DEDICATED** people! Join us at 8840 St. Joe Road in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Newly purchased home for the Meadow Crest Brethren Church in Fort Wayne.



BRETHREN BI-LINGUAL MINISTRY

by Rev. William Curtis

In his paper "THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN" Alcides Guajardo says, "—working with the Mexican-American taxes the patience and faith of even the most dedicated Christians—exercise a lot of patience and faith—you are sowing the seed—but it is a slow process."—And so we have found it to be in this new ministry to which the Lord has called us in the deserts of Arizona. We do however claim the promise found in Isaiah 55:10-23. Even as the processes of nature are at times slow yet the rain upon the seed will bring life. The word will not return unto its author void.

Amidst some frustrations in our work, God has abundantly supplied needs and blessings too numerous to mention. In brief, the following will give you some picture of our activities in the past eleven months.

A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER SPANISH SPEAKING PASTORS was established at the start with my acquaintance of Pastor Alberto Morales. He has lived in Tucson most of his life but still holds Mexican citizenship. I have traveled with him in Mexico and will probably make more trips in the fall. Through follow-up of names which he has given me, we have come to know one family out of which a young boy has accepted the Lord and we feel that others in the family will soon do so. I have shared with other Mexican pastors in United efforts in the city.

HOUSE TO HOUSE EVANGELISM going "cold turkey" as I call it, has also acquainted me with many families in several parts of Tucson. As return visits are made, friendship and confidence become stronger.

A RADIO PROGRAM IN SPANISH has been aired each week from January through the middle of July. Along with knowing that thousands have heard the Gospel in their "heart" language, we have also had the blessing of following up letters requesting a Gospel of John. The program will continue in the fall perhaps with a locally produced release.

BIBLE STUDY IN THE HOME has also been a method which we have used and which we know will be expanding this coming fall.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES have at times broken up our city work schedule but at the same time opened up some very exciting prospectives and brought us some wonderful fruits.

Friendship House held each Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Tucson Brethren Church gave us our first opportunity to bring Mexican-American children to our church through this three week program. Friendship House was a learning center type of Bible School in which Fran and I both participated with other members from the church.

Arizona Brethren Camp afforded another opportunity to sponsor at least one Mexican-American boy who, by-the-way, did accept Christ during the senior week of camp. He is now attending our sunday school with his two sisters. Praise the Lord!

A Five Day Bible School in a little "pueblo" called TUBAC was perhaps one of the highlites of the summer program. Nestled in the Santa Cruz Valley just 20 miles North of the border this little town of some 600 people, mostly Mexican-American, boasts of a history dating back to 1732 making it the first permanent Spanish settlement in Arizona.

The American Missionary Fellowship, better known by it's old name American Sunday School Union, has sponsored a Bible School since 1970, inviting any church group who wanted to participate with the ultimate goal of a Sunday School to be established. Our staff of five included the following workers. Brother Clayton Berkshire and wife Marjorie, Bill and Fran Curtis and Becky Grumbling from Waterloo, Iowa. Some sixteen others from the Tucson church assisted at least one day. Two camp trailers were loaned to the staff so that we could live on the field in Tubac itself. For some reason letters of invitation and personal invitations did not reach the homes before the school began so the first day's attendance was just three. Monday afternoon we then had a crash program of visitation and the following morning we saw some children at the local school a half hour early. For the rest of the days we averaged 26 with a total enrollment of over 30. About 80% of these were of Mexican-American parents. On the last day of Bible School over 20 children raised their hands indicating that they had bowed their head and invited Jesus into their heart. After we return from National conference we plan to continue our follow-up in this community which has no evangelical church within ten miles.

We wish to thank the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, representing the Brethren people, for supporting us in this new endeavor. More than anything else, we ask for your prayers that the Holy Spirit will go before us as we enter into the second year in our mission to the Spanish speaking, or bi-lingual, as we sometimes refer to them here in Arizona.



Rev. & Mrs. William Curtis & daughter Deborah

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT

A Home Mission Ministry in St. Petersburg, Florida

Reporters:
Phil & Jean Lersch
Bonnie Monroe

A QUIET PLACE

Many of the children who come to Brethren House live in the midst of confusion. People are coming and going on different schedules; a small house is shared by sometimes 8 or 9 people; televisions and radios are constantly blaring. These factors seem to point up the need for a place to be alone and quiet.

During our recent study of The Lord's Prayer, we labeled our newly-painted red refrigerator box our "Prayer Booth." Inside the booth we placed a chair (child-sized), a small chalkboard, chalf, and eraser. On the wall of the booth at eye level we placed a sign with the following directions:

"Prayer is **more** than talking. Sometimes God helps us think thoughts.
Sit here quietly for a minute or two.
Think about God.
Write on the chalkboard what you think about God.
LISTENING and THINKING can be prayer too.

No one checks what the children write on the chalkboard during their "meditation." This is an opportunity for each one to experience being alone and thinking about God. One recent Sunday, however, Ann brought me the chalkboard to show what she had written and we had a good conversation. She had written two sentences: "God died for our sins. We can call on Him when we need Him."

"That's so true, Ann," I said. I'm glad to be able to call on God at any time. I need Him often, Don't you?"

"Yea."

Then I added, "You have a big family, don't you?"

"There are 7 kids and Mom and Dad," she laughed.

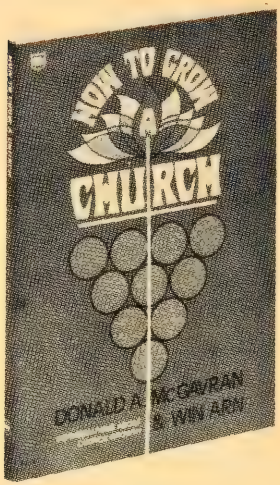
"I'll bet you need a place to go to be alone sometimes, don't you?"

Then I took her to our "Prayer Garden" outside and explained that Bonnie liked to go there each day to think about God and listen to what He had for her to think about. It was a good experience for both Ann and me. We had a chance to talk about a subject very important to us and everybody. She was ready to talk about it.

The Prayer Booth is one object lesson we use on prayer. Of course we pray with the children in our worship services each Sunday, but we want them to learn the part of prayer that is listening for God. So we need to show them how to listen. In our present days of noise and bustling activity, we must build in places and moments for quiet. We must practice and teach the art of being quiet and listening for God's directions in our thoughts. Step by step we want to help children learn to "Be still and know that I am God."

—Jean

HOW TO GROW A CHURCH



Why are so many people saying that the church has no place in society today?

Why are they turning to therapists, encounter groups and occultism, instead of to God?

Maybe it's because churches sometimes lack growth, an essential element in serving Christ effectively.

Sound familiar?

HOW TO GROW A CHURCH sets forth principles of church growth which have proven successful around the world and focuses them on the American scene. Applying these principles to the American church provides new insights and understandings of the growth process, presenting workable ideas to churches desiring growth.

HOW TO GROW A CHURCH pays attention to churches of various sizes and circumstances—small or large, rural or urban, new or established.

Authors Donald McGavran and Win Arn use a conversational format to propose that where there is a living church and non-Christians, there is an opportunity for growth.

A Church Growth Pac is available for group study.

Dr. Donald A. McGavran is Dean Emeritus of The School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California.

Dr. Win Arn, founder of the Christian Communication Company, Arcadia, California, is also Director of Christian Education, California Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church of America.

Available at Brethren Bookstore
524 College Ave.
Ashland, OH 44805

Price $2.95 (Postage prepaid if payment accompanies order.) (Price $2.00 on orders of ten or more.)

"DUST OR CLAY"

by Sandy Yarian

Does your life represent a particle of **dust**, not knowing where you are going or why you are here.

We see in the Scripture (Jeremiah 18:1-6) that the Lord is giving Jeremiah another message. "Go down to the shop where clay pots and jars are made and I will talk to you there." I did as He told me, and found the potter working at his wheel! But the jar that he was forming didn't turn out as he wished so he kneaded it into a lump and started again. Then the Lord said: "O Israel (me and you), can't I do to you as this potter has done to his **clay**? As the clay is in the potter's hand., so are you in my hand." This scripture very clearly points out to me, our life and relationship to Jesus Christ.

The potter's hand—God, the clay—our lives in His hand. "For He knows we are but dust." (Psalms 103:14), and ". . . the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground." (Gen. 2:7). Man came from dust and will return to dust. But . . . what about your life between birth and death? Is your life but dust? Have you mixed water with it, making clay?

Christ, said, "But the water I give them, becomes a perpetual spring within them, watering them forever with eternal life." (John 4:14).

Clay is a mixture of dust and water. It is of no value in itself, but when molded by the right hand and right purpose, it can become something great.

We cannot see God's plan for us, but we have His promises, His Word, the Bible. As we trust in Him our final outcome will be VICTORY. There's victory in Jesus!

If the clay becomes hard it cannot be molded. If a man's heart becomes hardened it is often times not receptive to God's Word. As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand." (Verse 6)

Our lives must be empty of self and filled with God's Word. If we are full of self, God cannot fill us, and if we are not filled, we are unable to share with others. Has God molded your life so you can share Christ's message to the dying world about us? Have you forgotten God? Have you been neglecting His Word? What about your prayer life? Do you take time to be with the Lord, daily? Have you lost your first love? God speaks to us in Rev. 2:4 and says: "Yet there is one thing wrong; you don't love me as at first. Think about those times of your first love (how different now) and turn back to me again and work as you did before; or else I will come and remove your candlestick from its place among the churches." I challenge you to:

"Check up on yourselves. Are you really Christians? Do you pass the test? Do you feel Christ's presence and power more and more within you? Or are you just pretending to be Christians, when actually you aren't at all?" (2 Cor. 13:5).

Ask God (the potter) to fill you (dust) with Living Water, and become clay for Jesus Christ to mold in His likeness. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6). And ". . . I am come that they might have life,and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10).

If you are but dust, ask the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and life today. He will give you meaning to life. He will give you peace, joy, strength, understanding, and guidance for each day. Maybe you have lost your first love. If so, take time right now and ask the Lord for forgiveness and renew your faith in Him.

Will you go forth singing with me. . . .

"Have thy own way Lord! Have thy own way!
Thou art the **Potter**; I am the **clay**.
Mold me and make me after Thy will,
While I am waiting, yielded and still."

Yes, have thy own way with me Lord, today and every day.

Is your life **dust** or **clay**? It is not our talents or abilities that count for God but our availability. You must choose this day whom you will serve. Let Christ work through you.

CHEEP ADVICE



Faith never stands around with its hands in its pockets.

Rearing children is like drawing a blue print; one has to know where to draw the line.

What the unbeliever calls GOOD LUCK the believer calls God's Love.

A man with a chip on his shoulder is carrying an unnecessary load.

WOMEN'S LAB



ANOTHER OF GOD'S VETERANS

Residing at Brethren Care in Ashland and providing a special spirit of cheerfulness and contentment, Miss Nora Vesper might set the tone for many about her—both residents and staff.

Although she always appears quiet and gracious, wearing a friendly smile, one would never guess from her unobtrusive manner the eventful life she has led.

Nora, a native of Ashland, from a family of six children—one a twin to her—has had a full and rewarding life. After high school in Ashland, she continued her education at the United Seminary in Dayton, taking the Deaconess course, specializing in religions. She has been a member of the United Brethren Church.

Furthering her training with an R.N. degree, she served for twenty years on the mission field in Sierra Leone, Africa. Located at a hospital in Rotifunk, Sierra Leone, she performed services far beyond the usual call of nurses in this country. In the dispensary every day she treated yaws, sores, and infections, resulting from lack of sanitation. On the more pleasant side, the responsibility—and privilege—of delivering many babies became her lot.

For some time she had charge of a baby clinic, with as many as one hundred little lives under her supervision and care. As a consequence of this experience, Nora became very fond of children and still is today.

To be sure, along with her service to physical bodies, she ministered to the spirits of her patients, leading many to Christ, or strengthening those already belonging to Him.

How rewarding it must be for this Christian lady to view in retrospect her service to and association with the needy! Asked what kind of people she likes best, she replied, "I like everyone, but especially those who are honest and sincere." Certainly her own life reflects these very characteristics.

Her presence at Brethren Care should prove an inspiration to all about her. May she, in the years ahead, experience the same joy and fulfillment she has brought to others. —il



Not what we gain
but what we give,
Measures the worth
of the life we live.

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

ASHLAND, Ohio, Oct. 9 — Ashland College scholarship awards to new students have been reappraised to recognize the relationship of the friends, neighbors and church support of the college, according to President Glenn L. Clayton.

Consideration for scholarship under newly developed guidelines will be determined in part by geographical area, with emphasis on the local community and nearby urban centers, including Mansfield, Cleveland, Columbus, Akron and Canton.

Other guidelines will provide benefits for children of alumni and members of the Brethren Church, founder of the College. Still another category provides assistance for family members attending Ashland College simultaneously.

In 1974, 38 Presidential Awards of $600 per year have been granted to students with academic ranking in the upper 15 per cent of their graduating classes or who maintained a 3. average in academic subjects. The Presidential Award, which will be increased to $1,000 in the new guidelines, also considers national board scores and a statement of eligibility from the student.

Qualifications for Merit Awards of $600 per year will be based on an academic projection of 2.5 or better and qualification as either a member of the Brethren Church, an alumnus in the immediate family, or approval at the discretion of the Director of Admissions for special qualification in another area.

Thirty-four new students at AC this fall were recipients of Merit Awards.

A new award, recognizing the rising costs facing families with more than one child enrolled in college at one time, is the Family Award. Under the new guidelines, if one member of a household is enrolled full-time, a second or more members of the same household who qualify for admission in good standing, and will be residing in college housing, will receive a grant of 50 per cent of tuition. Thus the first member will pay full tuition and all others will receive a 50 per cent tuition grant.

All grants will be authorized by Director of Admissions Giles Krueger. Grantees must be full time students living in college housing.

The guidelines further indicate that need may be a factor in the awards but it will not be a requirement; any qualified new student may receive the award; and although they may be supplemented by funds from other sources, the awards will not be combined with grants generally derived from regular college-budgeted funds.

BOOK REVIEWS

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AT WORK

We hear much today that the church is the body of Christ and that spiritual gifts are distributed by the Holy Spirit to the members of the body.

Key Publishers have printed a translation from Germany of a book "Charisma, the Gifts of the Spirit" by Siefried Grossman, dealing with quite a number of these gifts and how they interact.

Not a philosophical study, the author describes these gifts at work in our everyday lives. He also talks about the difference between the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit—how the decisive sign and the characteristic of a mature Christian is the fruit "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23)

A very interesting book, one of those which a person wants to re-read, it should be taken in it's entirety for a fuller picture rather than just sampling the chapters covering areas where the reader might have a particular interest. The book has been reprinted by Tyndale House under the title "There Are Other Gifts Than Tongues" and might be easier to find under this title.

The Bookworm

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



ASTON - CHAMBERS

Sue Ella Aston and David Loren Chambers exchanged wedding vows September 28 in the First Brethren Church in Cameron with the Rev. Paul Richey and the Rev. Gerald Garloch officiating at the double ring ceremony.

The bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Aston of Glen Easton, is a graduate of Cameron High School. The groom, son of Mrs. Helen Chambers of Cameron and the late Albert Chambers, is a graduate of Fairmont State College with an AS degree in printing technology. He is employed as production manager at the Green Tab Publishing Co.

After a wedding trip to Ocean City, Maryland, the couple will reside at 27 Waynesburg Ave., Cameron, West Virginia.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Yoder observed their 60th Wedding Anniversary September 21, 1974.

Sarasota, Florida

MILLEDGEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Rev. and Mrs. W. St. Clair Benshoff returned to Milledgeville Sunday, September 29, for RALLY DAY. What a beautiful day, as even the weather cooperated with us. The Benshoffs presented an organ-piano concert of "praise to the Lord." The church was packed with old and new friends, many of them remaining for a time of fellowship around the dinner tables at noon. Indeed, it was a time to "Praise The Lord."

This was a homecoming for St. Clair and Pauline, as their ministry began in Milledgeville in 1939 and continued through the war years. The response of the people proved their love for this talented couple. If your church has never experienced the blessing of their music, you have missed the opportunity of a real service. The Brethren Church is very fortunate to possess such talent and dedication.

Praise the Lord! Thank you Rev. and Mrs. W. St. Clair Benshoff.

James R. Black, Pastor
Milledgeville Brethren Church

HILLCREST BRETHREN CHURCH

35th ANNIVERSARY AND HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Sunday, November 3, 1974

Prof. J. Ray Klingensmith, professor of Bible at Ashland College and former pastor of the church will be the guest speaker at both Sunday School (9:30 a.m.) and morning worship (10:40 a.m.) A carry-in Dinner will be held following worship. An afternoon program will begin at about 1:30 p.m. with some emphasis on reminiscing and goal setting for church growth. The day will conclude with a service of praise featuring "The Spirit of Praise" singing and instrumental group of the Dayton Christian High School from around 2:45-3:30 p.m. For reservations, please write The Pastor, Hillcrest Brethren Church, 23 W. Hillcrest Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45405.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Bradenton, Florida—4 by baptism
Sarasota, Florida—4 by baptism, 2 by letter



Dear Editor:

"Praise the Lord for growth and outreach within the Brethren Church. Yes, you heard that right. I am serious despite what our statistical reports may have shown in the past several years. Lest we tend to be negative and forget the Positive Promises of God, I would like to share the following experience I just had.

While attending Orientation for our Missionary Internship program it was our privilege to be houseguests of a fine Christian couple in Detroit. During the get acquainted conversation he asked me about the Brethren Church, who we were, where we are, and what we stand for.

As I shared with him some of the following information I really began to praise the Lord for what has happened in the Brethren Church.

Within the last 5 years (the length of my pastorate with the fine Brethren at Gratis, Ohio) I noted to him the following advances made by the Brethren Church (the Progressive Brethren):

1. We have **progressed** from a struggling Benevolent Board with a small home in Flora, Indiana, to a Board that has expanded greatly in Flora; is laying groundwork for a ministry in South Bend; built Brethren Care, Buckeye Apartments, and manages Martin House in Ashland; and has undertaken Brethren Care of Penna.

2. We have **progressed** at ATS where the student body and faculty have nearly doubled (and have doubled since I began Ashland College).

3. We have **progressed** with a Missionary Board which has opened new fields in India, Colombia, a Spanish ministry in Tucson, Ariz., and now in Malaysia, plus some policy changes to make itself more effective and efficient. All this in a time when many Mission Boards are having to cut back.

4. We have **progressed** with a Board of Christian Education which has made great strides in spreading the Gospel with a tremendous Crusader Program, HIS, CE workshops, and now plans for an ICL at next General Conference.

5. We have **progressed** with an awareness that unless LAYMEN become ALIVE the church can't grow. The work of witnessing no longer belongs to the paid clergy alone, but to all God's children.

6. We have **progressed** with a World Relief Commission who has seen the physical needs of people and challenge us to help meet that need all in the name of Christ. Through them we are able to help more people who really have a need.

7. We have **progressed** with a Publishing Company which has hired its first layman Editor, streamlined the **Brethren Evangelist,** and is taking positive steps to get as much Christian literature available as possible.

8. We have **progressed** by taking positive steps toward Church Growth through Church Growth seminars, more churches holding LAYMEN ALIVE sessions, plus many other positive areas.

I could go on, and if there are others who are making progress please forgive me. Yes Brethren, Praise the Lord we have a **progressive** outreach. Let's keep it going. The devotions for the last morning of Orientation were a fitting capsule to the above when the Pastor H. Dayton Meyers, Covenant Community Church of Detroit, shared some interesting and inspiring thoughts on "Accentuating the Positive Promises of God." Brethren, let us accentuate the positive promises of God and continue to be **Progressive Brethren** (get the word around.)

Thanks for listening and Praise the Lord.

Joyfully, in Jesus
William Walk
Essexville, Michigan

BLUEFIELD, W. Va.—One of the oldest debts ever owed General Telephone Company of the Southeast, a subsidiary of General Telephone & Electronics Corporation, was settled this week when the company received a $4 payment for a coin call made more than 40 years ago.

Don Orander, manager of the telephone company's service office here, received an anonymous letter containing four one-dollar bills to pay for a call made in nearby Keystone, W. Va., in 1934—or possibly earlier.

The writer, whose letter carried a North Carolina postmark, said he—or she—had intended to stop at the company's office and pay the bill, but always forgot to do so.

"I left the town of Keystone, and I hadn't the chance to pay this," the letter explained. "I owe it and I don't want to keep the money. So I didn't know of any other way to pay it but to send it to General Telephone and let them decide what to do with it."

"This has bothered me a lot of times," the writer said, "because I'm a Christian and I don't want this to hinder me when the Lord calls me to leave this world."

A postscript neatly covered the inflationary trend of the past four decades: "This call was $3.50, so I am sending $4 to be sure it is right."

GTE News Item

CRUSADE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

RIO DE JANEIRO—"God has put a cross in your sky," Billy Graham told Brazilians, for whom the Southern Cross constellation is a national symbol. At the closing service of his five day Crusade here he appealed to the South Americans to put the Christ of the cross first in their lives.

The Sunday afternoon crowd was described by Graham as the largest ever to attend an evangelistic meeting in either South or North America. An estimated 225,000 were packed in Maracana, the world's largest stadium. Authorities said an additional 25,000 were listening outside. The evangelist also had an unprecedented—for Brazil—live television audience. It was the first time in the nation's history that an evangelistic meeting had been carried live throughout the country. Stations carrying the network program serve 1,500 cities.

Brazilians with access to television usually spend Sunday afternoons watching soccer games. No game was scheduled on the Crusade Sunday, however. Brazilians were expected to be at their television sets even though there was no game, since one of their countrymen was scheduled to drive to victory in the televised car race at Watkins Glen in the time slot following the Crusade.

In his closing sermon Graham said, "Very few countries are identified with the cross as is the great country of Brazil." He noted that the first colonists erected a cross on the nation's shore when they landed. One of Brazil's most famous symbols abroad is the cross shaped statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio. Church steeples everywhere are topped with crosses, and most of the people wear crosses, he said.

The North Carolina evangelist urged members of the vast congregation to turn to the living Christ for a solution to their problems. 'The hope of the world is this living Christ," he declared. Graham said people all over the globe ask, "Is there any help for me?" The answer, he asserted, is "only in the cross." When he asked those who wanted to turn to Christ to indicate their intentions, thousands identified themselves to Crusade counselors.

Speaking briefly during the greater Rio Crusade's final service was a North American known to Brazilians as a friend of their international championship soccer teams, Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper. The physical fitness expert said he was "proud and honored to have been associated" with the training of the 1970 and 1974 World Cup teams. The man who popularized aerobatics for keeping in physical shape emphasized, however, that he thought spiritual fitness should take top priority. "I hope Brazilians will continue to exercise," the retired U.S. Air Force officer said. "But I also hope that thousands of Brazilians will decide today" to get in good spiritual condition with Christ's help.

Even though the final Crusade service was available to millions on television and radio, thousands came from great distances to be a part of the Maracana Gospel meetings. Over 400 bus loads were known to have come from outside the states of Guanabara and Rio de Janeiro. The passengers were given overnight housing and sometimes meals in Christian homes, or in schools and churches. In addition, about 3,000 buses brought delegations from the suburbs of greater Rio.

The Saturday youth night meeting was attended by an estimated 200,000. Crowds were smaller on the first three (weekday) nights. Crusade Chairman Nilson Fanini, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Niteroi, told the Sunday congregation that its size set a new record for the huge stadium.

While it was the largest stadium meeting Graham had ever conducted, it was not the largest group to which he had preached. The record was set June 3, 1973, at the end of his Crusade in Seoul, Korea. Local officials there estimated that 1.1 million attended that service on an airfield.

WHEATON, ILL. **The Bible Under Attack,** by Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse, is a new release from Victor Books. It is another of the Victor Books 32-page paperbacks selling for 49 cents.

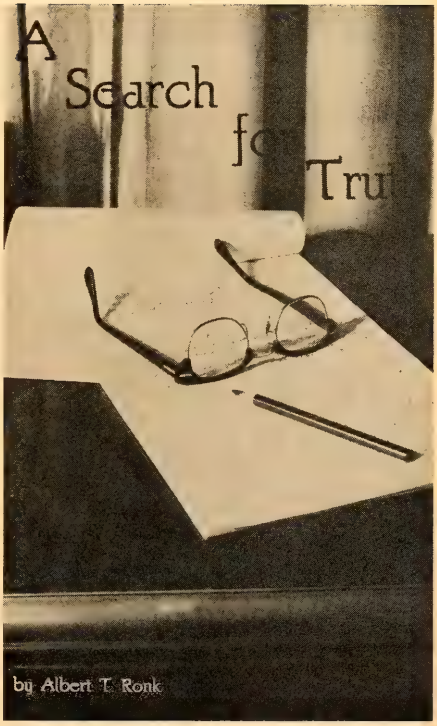
The Bible Under Attack explains the meaning of the oft-repeated biblical phrase, "It is written." In a compelling treatment that puts the question of biblical authority into proper perspective, the author gives Christians help in holding fast the integrity and authority of the Word of God.

Barnhouse, first editor-in-chief of **Eternity** magazine, launched the Bible Study Hour on radio more than 35 years ago. His reputation as a Bible teacher and staunch defender of the Christian faith took him to all parts of the world before his death in 1960.

WHEATON, ILL. **What You Should Know About the Bible** is a new release from Victor Books. It is one of a series of 32-page titles written by Larry Richards for campus young people, and sells for 49 cents.

What You Should Know About the Bible attempts to explain what the Bible **is** as God's revelation, and what the Bible is **for** as God's personal Word of transformation for believers. A particularly valuable section, chapters 6 through 9, explains the place the Bible should play in the lives of Christians.





"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

This book was printed as a memorial volume in a limited edition by the Ronk family and the Book and Pamphlet Commission. It is available at the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstores in Ashland, Ohio and Plymouth, Indiana.

The price of this book is $1.00 plus 35¢ postage and handling charge.

Send for your copy to:

THE BRETHREN BOOKSTORE
524 College Avenue 110 West LaPorte Street
Ashland, Ohio 44805 or Plymouth, Indiana 46563

FOUNDATIONAL HYMN TALKS FOR MORNING WORSHIP



By Peter E. Roussaki
Minister of Music and Education
The Brethren Church
New Lebanon, Ohio

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways in which congregational singing in worship services may be enriched. I find the short devotional or informative HYMN TALK one of the most practical means. Hymn talks may be inserted quite naturally into the order of service. Immediately preceding the singing of a hymn the pastor, choir director, or song leader may provide a few minutes of hymn interpretation. He may also choose to interpret between stanzas. This technique seems to work better because the congregation is less likely to lose interest.

The four hymn talks in this series are called FOUNDATIONAL because they describe what this writer feels are the very basics of congregational or hymn singing. Clergy and laity alike can profit from a simple, yet clear understanding of the place of song in worship and other Christian settings. The talks may best be used at the beginning of a hymnic enrichment program. They are presented here basically as they were this spring in New Lebanon, each taking approximately six minutes, including singing.

PART IV

PART IV. **The Spiritual Song**

From our previous talks we've learned that the reference to the Psalms in Colossians probably referred to those Psalms used in Israelite worship in the days of King David. The Hymn reference pointed to originally conceived songs of praise and devotion. Among all the suggestions I've encountered, the **Spiritual Song** seems to mean a spontaneously conceived song of praise or prayer by an individual for his edification and the glorification of God. It may or may not be suitable for use in corporate worship. However, it is very likely that such spontaneous musical expressions did 'happen' in early Christian worship gatherings.

I think it would be safe to say that in the spiritual song an individual expresses his/her **spirit** and feelings about God or to God. The spiritual song offers the individual a musical means of free, religious, unhindered, and unjudged expression of his feelings about God. The spiritual song is a thing of the **heart.**

Let's imagine during the day you began singing by yourself to yourself, or to God. You made up your own song! And because it turned out pretty good (in your own judgment!) you decided to have it written down for others to enjoy. Perhaps they would receive a spiritual blessing from singing it. Would your spiritual song still be a spiritual song? It can no longer be rendered in the same spontaneous fashion in which it was originally conceived. Would it still be a spiritual song in the biblical sense? Would it have become a hymn?

These are difficult questions to answer positively. The pattern in history for using these songs has been not so much in formal worship of God, but more in the informal, evangelistic, or edification-fellowship gatherings where the focus of attention is more on the brotherhood than on the specific worship of God. It **may** be possible (and this is only a suggestion), if this is true, to view the Gospel Songs in our hymnals as **kin** to the biblical reference to spiritual songs. Both usually arise out of a special situation or feeling about the Christian experience; both seem to exhibit a freedom and easiness of melody and harmony, if any is present; in each usually one thought is presented in a variety of ways.

One established definition of the Gospel song is:

> "A sacred folk song, free in form, emotional in character, devout in attitude, and usually evangelistic in purpose and spirit. The music is people's music: simple, singable, and appealing. It is more or less subjective in matter and develops a single thought which usually finds expression in a chorus."

An author on church music, Robert M. Stevenson, has said: "Gospel Hymnody has the distinction

of being America's most typical contribution to Christian song." (The congregation would then be led in the singing of a few spiritual-like choruses: "Kum Ba Yah," "Alleluia," etc.

CONCLUSION

It would be desirable to follow up these four talks on a succeeding Sunday with a Creative Worship Service using Psalm-based hymns or anthems, hymns, and spiritual songs (choruses). It may be exciting to see if anyone in the congregation would offer a spontaneous musical expression of praise to God. One possible skeleton outline for such a service may include the following sections:

I

Organ Prelude
Choral Call to Worship
Invocation
Doxology

II

GLORIFY GOD IN PSALMS

Hymn (based on Psalm text)
Responsive Reading
Mini-Meditation (with Psalm text)
Anthem
Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

III

PROCLAIM HIS WORD IN HYMNS

Verbal Modulation
Hymn of Confession
Prayers of Confession
Mini-Meditation
Hymn or Anthem (with scriptural base from the Mini-Meditation text)

IV

WITNESS IN SPIRITUAL SONGS

Verbal Modulation
Testimonies (verbal or spontaneously musical)
Gospel Song Chorus (or other short devotional refrains)
Chorus of Consecration or Invitation with Offering
Organ (or other instrumental postlude)
Benediction

Concluding thoughts in such a service, I feel should be centered around the use of all forms of musical expression. I believe the Bible is clear in its accounts on the place for a variety of expressions suitable for various situations. Such variety attempts to meet everyones spiritual and emotional needs and tastes. Certainly through the use of all kinds of song we follow the Biblical pattern of worship and teaching and edification.



"Workers Together with God"

NAE Sunday, October 27, 1974

A voluntary fellowship for united action, the **National Association of Evangelicals** provides identification for 30,000 local churches from 60 affiliations.

Through this cooperative witness, 3.5 million evangelicals share in a wide range of ministries proclaiming Christ as Lord in such areas as missions, broadcasting, government relations and world relief.

NAE Sunday is designed as a reminder of the part individuals and churches can play as "workers together with God."

Observe NAE Sunday in your church and receive a free cassette

Participating churches will receive a cassette message "Remembering -We Press Forward" by Dr. Clyde W. Taylor at the 1974 NAE Convention.

nae

MAIL TO:
National Association of Evangelicals
Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

YES, we will emphasize the ministry of NAE on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 27. Please send us these free NAE Sunday materials:

____ copies, *BULLETIN INSERTS*
____ copies of NAE Sunday *POSTERS*
____ copies of *PROFILE (NAE newsletter for churches not now receiving)*

PASTOR _____
CHURCH _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

World Religious News in Review

REFORMED CHURCHMEN EYE CABLE TV AS MINISTRY

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (EP)—The advent of cable television (CATV) offers the church "a whole new age . . . a chance to start fresh," a Reformed Church in America minister declared here.

Rev. Peter Paulsen, media coordinator for his denomination, led a workshop here Sept. 25 at Grace Reformed Church to explore methods of capitalizing on cable TV.

The minister asked his fellow clergymen to be ready to seize the advantages when the lights of cablevision are blazing on sets in homes all around the area.

In preparation for the workshop, a half hour, locally produced cablevision program outlining the possibilities available for churches in CATV was presented by GE Cablevision, holder of the CATV franchise in nearby Wyoming, on its channel 10 and at its studios in Grand Rapids.

'THIS IS THE LIFE' WINS EMMY FOR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (EP)—"This Is the Life," the half-hour dramatic television series sponsored by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has been awarded an Emmy by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

The Emmy, given for "outstanding achievement in religious programming for technical achievement," for the episode entitled "Gift of Tears," was presented during a nationally televised awards banquet on Sept. 4 at the New York Hilton Hotel in New York City.

Of the 64 shows to receive nominations this year in children's religious, and news/documentary programming, "This Is The Life," produced by Lutheran Television, was the only syndicated show under consideration. Now in its 23rd season, it is the longest running syndicated half-hour dramatic series on television.

'MOTORIST'S PRAYER' ENDORSED BY STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH, N.C. (EP)—The State of North Carolina will keep a "motorist's prayer" on the back of its official highway maps, despite North Carolina Civil Liberties Union protests.

And, said the state's CLU, it will sue as promised.

A complaint from Lawrence C. Roush, an atheist, prompted North Carolina's Civil Liberties Union to lodge a protest with the Department of Transportation.

Mr. Roush charged that the prayer "is a blatant intrusion of the state . . . into the realm of religion. It seems so out of place. To me, it almost seems obscene."

Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr., said the prayer promotes highway safety, no religion. "We don't want a state-imposed religion," he said, "but it would be a sad day should America ever become a non-religious state. We've looked at all the situation and we've looked at the legalities and the prayer will stay on the map."

CHURCH G-FILMS FLOP, CONGREGATION IN RED

DETROIT (EP)—The Union Grace Missionary Baptist Church rented a local theater here for six weeks and showed nothing but G-rated films, but the experiment flopped.

Pastor Major E. Smith said he had hoped that the trial run of five movies would draw people downtown to "decent" pictures.

The experiment ended with the books showing the church $4,000 in the red. The 500-member church invested $11,000 in the project.

"They just didn't turn out like we expected," said Pastor Smith.

ACADEMY RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS ARE 'STILL GOING STRONG'

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (EP)—Cadet religious programs at the Air Force Academy here are "still going strong, and most chaplains feel the situation is better" than before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of January 1973 which abolished mandatory chapel attendance.

"Pews in the Cadet Chapel are not filled as they were before the edict," a report from the academy information office stated, "but chaplains say that more cadets are participating in Bible studies, denominational activities and other programs."

The first Sunday following the court's ruling, attendance at services was down by 67 per cent.

"Hardest hit in attendance figures by the Supreme Court decision were Protestant and Catholic services, while Jewish participation remained the same," the report stated. "Protestants account for almost 65 per cent of the cadet wing, and Catholics almost 35 per cent. There are 40 Jewish cadets."

Attendance in the chapel remained down until March of 1973.

The only requirement for church attendance now comes when a cadet first arrives at the academy. He is given a tour of the chapel and a briefing as part of his initial academy orientation.

NAE

NEWS BRIEFS

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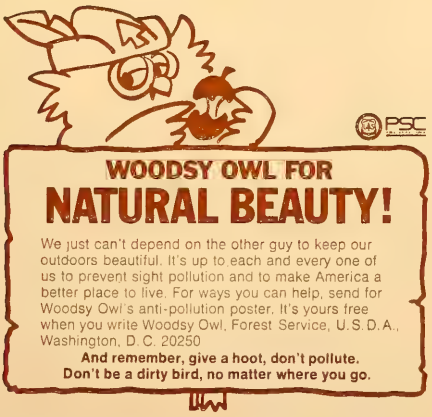
Date of Address Change

SCRIPTURE READING PROGRAM DISTRIBUTED FOR 1975

WHEATON, Ill.—An NAE-sponsored national program to encourage daily reading of the Bible in 1975 is now being publicized in churches and Christian periodicals, according to Dr. Billy A. Melvin, NAE executive director.

"This year the reading guides are available on a read-it-through program and also a read-and-study approach," Melvin said. The first plan lists the entire Bible in daily selections grouped chronologically. The second plan is a daily listing of Scripture passages with a study guide. Both guides are printed in a two-color bookmark format with spaces provided to mark off selections read.

Churches across the country are being encouraged to order the Bible reading guides in quanitity for their members' use and distribution within the community.



WOODSY OWL, the anti-pollution spokesbird for the U.S. Forest Service says:

Did You Know? It takes ten trees one day to produce the oxygen required to burn just one gallon of gasoline. At that rate, it would take a grove of 28 trees to replace the oxygen used by the average American's car in a year.

Ashland Theological Seminary
)10 Center
Ashland, Ohio 44805



The **BRETHREN HOME MISSION** program for 1975 can be as big as our faith. How much do we want to reach out in the United States? How many new churches should we plant? How much can we trust God for Church Growth in our own communities? The answer lies in our own commitment to work and witness. The answer lies in how much we are willing to support denominational outreach through our material resources. The answer lies in how much we really want the Brethren Church to grow. The answer lies in our individual and personal faith.

This year we have not set a goal for the **HOME MISSIONS — THANKSGIVING OFFERING.** Instead we would ask you how much you would like the Brethren Church to reach out this year in the United States and register your vote by your support of the **HOME MISSION** offering for outreach in 1975.

HOME MISSIONS IN 1975

How Big Is Our Faith?

MISSIONARY BOARD OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH
530 COLLEGE AVE., ASHLAND, OHIO 44805

The Brethren EVANGELIST



Ashland Theological Library
Ashland, Ohio

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS

With Peace Sunday scheduled for November 10 another article on this issue by Rev. St. Clair Benshoff entitled "The Old Testament and New Testament Positions on Peace—Reconciled or Not" is published in this edition and will be found on page 29.

This is also the second appeal for Home Missions with emphasis again being given to church growth. The General Secretary of our National Sisterhood organization, Beth Gilmer has supplemented this theme in her article to the young women of our church in this publication.

The second series of papers on Divorce and Remarriage is found in this issue beginning on page 16.

HELP! HELP! HELP!

With the increase in postage rates being added to the other inflationary costs of producing our church organ it would bring much relief in cutting down on some of our costs if those of our subscribers who contemplate moving to another location would be kind enough to utilize the change of address form that is found on the inside of the back cover of each issue. It would cut down tremendously the costs of having your Publishing Company pay 10¢ each for notices from the Postal Service of address changes. We appreciate the use of this form of those who sent them in the past and urge others to do likewise.



By the Way

STARTING THE DAY WITH CONFIDENCE

Perhaps it is a very rare occasion if any one of us has not turned the alarm clock off in the morning at some time during our lives without murmuring something to the effect: "Oh no, do I have to get up and go tackle those problems at work again today?"

Whether it be a salesman, secretary, truck driver, office manager, shop foreman or superintendent (or even editors) the pressures of the day before or the knowledge of what is in store for the day ahead may be just that extra tug on the wrench that may snap off the bolt head.

It may be that many will say that it is much easier said than done but this little lesson in Spiritual Efficiency by Roy Smith may help to make the bell on the alarm clock sound like a chime instead of a jangling fire alarm tomorrow morning.

"An otherwise good day will be completely ruined if it is launched with fears and misgivings, yet many Christians do that very thing and then wonder why their religion does not work. **To insure the success of any day it must be begun with confidence.**

The story is told of an old Negro who greeted each day with this simple, but effective prayer: "O Lord, help me to remember that nothin' is goin' to happen to me today that you and me together can't handle."

In this homely petition the devout old man expressed the basic attitude of the efficient Christian toward every day. In his words we have the secret of successful living by faith in God.

Nothing is gained by denying the hard facts of life, or minimizing their seriousness. To deny the fact of pain, or to shut our eyes to difficulties, is no solution of the problems. But we can refuse to admit that they surpass the resources at our disposal.

We can admit very freely, of course, that our burdens are more than we can bear alone. But the Christian is one who lives in the confidence that **he does not have to bear them alone.** He serves, and is served by, a God who walks by his side every moment.

To assert this fact at the beginning of each day is to begin the waking hours with the spirit of victory within our hearts, rather than with the spirit of doubt and fear. "Faith wins the victory."

To prove the truth of the old Negro's prayer, take a hurried look back over your life. Count up all the terrible experiences through which you have passed, and note the fact that **you have passed through them.** Make a list of all the burdens you have carried and then note the fact that **you have carried them.** Add up all the difficulties you have overcome, and then note the fact that **you have overcome them.**

Recall, if you can, the worst day you ever faced. Remember how terrible and threatening it appeared? And yet, by some miracle you have never quite been able to explain, **you survived!** God came to the rescue, and if today looks just as bad as that other day looked, God can be trusted to come to the rescue again!

Perhaps you cannot see, now, just how He can do it. Neither could you see, on that other occasion, how disaster could be avoided. But you worked your way through, and though you probably carry some scars, it is very evident that the worst day you ever lived did not prove fatal. Neither will today!

Start your day, then, with that confidence. Declare your faith unto yourself. Repeat the old Negro's prayer over and over again. Of course, if you can phrase it better, do so. But be sure to be positive about the matter.

Do not plead with God for strength with which to meet your difficulties. If God is the kind of God Jesus talked about, He can be trusted to supply the strength when it is needed. To offer up fervent pleas, as though there might be some question about God's willingness or ability to help, is to implant doubts within one's own mind and any doubt becomes an obstruction which shuts off the inflow of divine power upon one's own spirits.

Get your prayer of confidence started before the doubts begin to arise. Let your first waking thought be an assertion of faith in God, in life, and in yourself. Begin by believing. Look your day squarely in the face and solemnly declare the simple fact—**"God and I, together, are more than masters of any day."**

No matter how weak, how ignorant, how exhausted, or how incompetent you may think yourself to be, **God will make up the deficit.** When you have thrown the last bit of your strength into the struggle, He will supply whatever additional power is necessary to win the battle."

"Little Lessons in Spiritual Efficiency" by Roy L. Smith. Used by permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.

MISSIONARY NEWS

NEW KIND OF WORKSHOP GIVING SPARK TO CHURCH GROWTH

by Dr. Vergil Gerbe

The following article reports on Church Growth workshops held in Venezuela as a pilot venture for other such workshops in other parts of Latin America. Mention is also made of such workshops in other parts of the Third World and we PRAISE GOD for progress in seeing the Church grow in all parts of the world.

"I sat where they sat. . . ." the prophet declared (Ezek. 3:15). While his circumstances were quite different from those of the contemporary missionary scene, the principle involved is identical. **Diagnostic research** as applied to evangelism and church growth attempts to "sit where they sit" and to analyze **with** national pastors and churches in many nations the problems and prospects related to fulfullment of the Great Commission.

Ten years ago one would scarcely have imagined that the application of the principles of **diagnostic research** to the evangelistic task of the church would have created such excitement or produced such widespread and immediate results as we are witnessing today.

The main thrust behind this recent impetus is a new kind of workshop designed to provide practical help to pastors. Its purpose is to lend assistance in analyzing and measuring their efforts against the biblical yardstick and to help them attain long-range permanent evangelistic results in terms of responsible, reproducting church members who in turn produce responsible, reproducing churches.

NEBULOUS OBJECTIVES

Permeating missionary thinking for many year was the famous slogan of Oswald J. Smith, "Wh should anyone here the gospel twice when every one has not heard it once." Subconsciously, w equated proclamation (i.e., hearing) with **fulfil ment.** By and large, fulfillment had rather nebu lous and imprecise connotations.

Missionary objectives therefore were frequentl expressed in vague generalities. We spoke **reaching people or getting the gospel out.** Ju what constituted fulfillment was not clear. Man considered **making disciples and building th church** to be qualitative dimensions of the Gre Commission and therefore impossible of precis fulfillment and incapable of measurement. Som believed that the missionary responsibility ende with **preaching the gospel.** They thought that fu fillment, since it encompasses "spiritual" result must be left to the Holy Spirit. Quantitativel missionary reports consisted of things like atten ance, hands raised, public professions, decisio cards, ,literature distribution, radio listeners, et Whether these were a measurement of missionar **fulfillment** or not, was open to question.

However, in more recent years we have seen sharpening of the missionary focus and a caref reexamination of the missionary goal. As **diagno tic research** began to play a prominent role i the business and professional fields, missionar leaders too recognized the need for a careful mea urement and evaluation of missionary activitie and of evangelistic objectives.

On September 24-27, 1970, fifty delegates wer convened by the Evangelical Committee on Lati America (ECLA) at Elburn, Illinois, to grapp with the implications of a 421-page research stud on **Latin American Church Growth** prepared b William R. Read, Victor M. Monteroso and Ha mon A. Johnson and published by William Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, the previous year.

Disturbed by evident failures to produce vi orous church growth as disclosed by the boo these delegates examined their programs relate

to the evangelization of Latin America. The Consultation produced sobering and significant conclusions.

Among other things, the Elburn Consultation pointed up: (a) The **unlimited opportunities for growth** that face the churches in Latin America. (b) The need for missionary church planters who can carry out this important work **in conjunction with the national churches.** (c) The potential of the missionary contribution to the growth of national churches by **training and stimulating national church leaders in the area of diagnostic research.**

THE VENEZUELAN EXPERIMENT

Specifically, the Venezuelan Experiment—first in the developing series of evangelism/church growth workshops dedicated to what C. Peter Wagner has called "body evangelism" ("body" places the emphasis upon the **goal** of evangelism, i.e., the growth of the body of Christ)—was a direct outgrowth of the concerns reflected by Elburn and the subsequent deliberations of the ECLA Committee.

These same disquieting concerns were being expressed by Latin American pastors and church leaders. At the invitation of the president of the United Evangelical Convention of Venezuela in March of 1972, C. Peter Wagner and I met with church and mission leaders in the cities of Caracas and Maracaibo to discuss with them: (a) How do we evaluate evangelistic effectiveness? (b) How do we achieve permanence and growth in terms of church members and churches?

While these leaders recognized the extensive evangelistic efforts of the past which penetrated almost every sector of their nation for Christ, and with evident success in terms of decisions recorded, at the same time they were disturbed by the fact that this statistical success has not been reflected in corresponding permanent results in terms of relating converts to congregations and of planting and multiplying churches.

After much thought and prayer the Venezuelan leaders launched a series of three workshops to be held at one-year intervals. Between the workshops measurable evangelistic goals projected by representatives from Venezuelan churches and denominations during the four days of intensive study and interchange were to be carried out with detailed documentation and reviewed at the next year's workshop.

The first workshop was held in June, 1972, with 47 pastors, leaders and missionaries from 72 local churches and seven denominations participating. At the invitation of the national convention, the Evangelical Committee on Latin America (EFMA/IFMA) provided a three-man resource team of qualified specialists to conduct the experiment.

The most important emphasis in the workshop was upon the spiritual. Evangelism and church growth are the work of the Holy Spirit. The majority of the plenary sessions, therefore, were devoted to biblical expositions and the theological basis for evangelism and church growth. Permeating every phase of the week's instruction was the recognition that numerical addition and multiplication in the New Testament are never a substitute for, nor separated from, the spiritual reproduction of new life in the believer and in the church.

The curriculum did, however, zero in on practical instructions in goal setting, strategy, research techniques, the use of statistics and graphs, etc. Participants were taught how to evaluate past performances and the effectiveness of their individual evangelistic programs; how a graph growth patterns for their own church and/or churches; how to analyze strengths and weaknesses of present activities; how to set measurable goals for the future in faith; how to gather and record statistical information that will contribute to the spiritual health and numerical growth of their churches.

The **second cycle** of the Venezuelan experiment is now well under way. The second workshop in Venezuela is history. We now have sufficient statistical evidence to evaluate the first year's performances with a considerable degree of accuracy. As those who returned the second time shared what God had been doing during the year, they discovered that their combined goal of 3,963 members by 1975 had almost been realized in the first year! During the year of intensive evangelism they had increased their total membership from 2,181 to 3,687.

INVITATIONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Reports of the pilot workshop in Venezuela struck an immediate, responsive chord in other countries that even a preliminary evaluation of its effectiveness was not possible before requests began to come in and arrangements were made for similar experiments elsewhere.

It also became evident that an evaluation tool was urgently needed. A practical how-to-do-it **Manual For Evangelism/Church Growth** was prepared and published in English by William Carey Library in February, 1973. The first edition of 5,000 sold out within three months' time. Meanwhile, requests for translation of the **Manual** came from twelve language areas and four continents. Within six months the handbook was out in Spanish[1] and French[2] and available for use in several of the workshops last summer (1973). By early 1974 it should also be available in Portuguese, French/Creole, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Swahili with other language editions in various stages of preparation.

APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES

The workshops provide a tailor-made vehicle for the application of the principles of **diagnostic research.** Delegates come to the workshop to discuss the growth and to measure the effectiveness of their own churches in relation to the evangelistic mandate. They start with the New Testament yardstick as the primary instrument for measurement. The imperative of the Great Commission to **make disciples** is the basic dimension from which these measurements are made. Acts 2:41-47 gives the **qualitative** dimension of a disciple and enumerates the steps in his relationship to the local church.

The Book of Acts then traces on the scriptural graph the origins and growth of the first century churches in which, from the very beginning, clear structures emerge into an organized church at Jerusalem with all the characteristics of what

Beyerhaus and Lefever call "responsible selfhood" (qualitative measurements) and from which dynamic, living cells multiply into hundreds of congregations in Asia, Europe, Africa, and around the world (quantitative measurements).

Participants are then shown the practical value of a simple graph. They are taught how to plot the numerical growth of their own churches on a graph. It is a most rewarding experience to see a pastor, with limited academic training, suddenly beam as though turned on like a light bulb. For the first time he comprehends how a line on a graph can tell a story. He sees his own church and his own ministry in picture form. And immediately he becomes excited as he identifies the "ups and downs" and is able to diagnose the "why" of each change in course.

"I know what happened in 1965," exclaimed one Haitian pastor as he looked at the decline on the graph he had just drawn. "We discontinued the aggressive program of evangelism we had had prior to that point." Another volunteered that the upturn in his graph was due to a new program of training the leaders in his church to assume responsibility for all phases of the church, including a dynamic program of outreach into the community. This kind of exercise took the threat out of sharing and made an invaluable contribution to the men who participated.

From these **quantitative** dimensions he is able to make **qualitative** evaluations and to understand the factors that have hindered or helped his church to grow. "I always thought statistics were for missionaries to report home about," confessed one African pastor. "Now I see them as something very vital to the growth of my own church."

"Our fellows came away with real encouragement and enthusiasm," a missionary in the Ivory Coast wrote home to his mission headquarters. "If nothing else was gained (and there was), the blessing gained from sitting down with others facing similar joys, problems and obstacles as ours and analyzing our work together was well worth it. Our fellows heard reports of how others faced their problems realistically and then launched out by faith. And how the Lord gave them abundant fruit as a result. This was really good for our pastors and for us missionaries."

PROJECTIONS IN FAITH

But the most exciting thing about these workshops comes on the last day. They are not set up simply as a series of lectures followed by an academic exercise. Their goal is to change the evangelistic course for congregations and denominations represented. On the final day participants spend time in prayer, in examination of their performance in the past and in discussing the possibilities for the future. Then they set down careful, prayerful, realistic goals for the next five years. These are definite and measureable in terms of the number of new members to be added to the churches and the number of new congregations to be planted.

The representative of a small but virile denomination in Kenya, East Africa, at the close of the workshop enthusiastically volunteered, "By the help of God we are hoping to start 27 new churches in the next five years. That's more than double the number we have right now. And we are going to make it, too!" The seven denominations represented at the Kenya workshop determined by God's help to bring 1,480 new churches into being during that period.

"When we looked at the growth patterns of our churches from 1967 to 1972, we were all convinced that it was far short of what God expected of us," a Conservative Baptist missionary from Africa reported. "We're on the threshold of a real movement of the Spirit of God on our field." No wonder the pastors of his denomination projected a 33 percent growth in church membership in the next five years!

These workshops have had their roots in the decade past, but their fruits will be seen in the decade to come. "The realization of these goals could mark a new era of unprecedented expansion, "a Christian and Missionary Alliance missionary in Colombia anticipated.

It would of course be presumptous to predict what these workshops and the practical application of diagnostic reasearch might mean in the decade ahead. But one thing is certain. enthusiasm for **body evangelism** workshops has only begun to catch fire. "Church growth thinking has found increasing acceptance among missionaries and national leaders as it has been developed and taught in the last decade," observed Dr. Wayne Weld following the Colombian workshop. "Now it is being applied at the grassroots level. As it takes hold of Christians on the growing edge of the church, we can expect to see an explosion in evangelism in the next few years. These workshops in country after country may well be one of the most significant means God uses for the mobilization of the church in the 1970's."

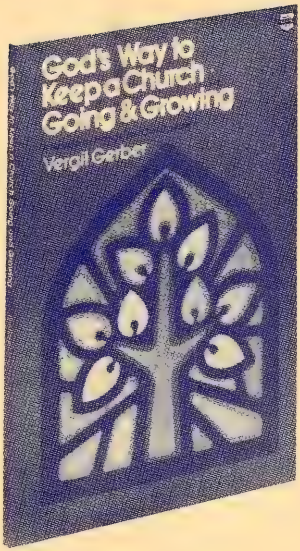
Reprinted by permission of the Evangelical Missions information service from the January, 1974 **Evangelical Missions Quarterly.**

We were interested to read in an evaluation of the Venezuelan experiment by C. Peter Wagner, published in the Church Growth Bulletin of July, 1974, the following: "While the overall results of the experiment were favorable, some negative lessons were also learned. By Venezuela III it became obvious that the annual national workshop was not adequate for optimum results. . . . I interpret this as another indication that interdenominational efforts at promoting evangelism and church growth are not always the best. . . . When the rate of increase or decrease of all churches of a single denomination can be consistently measured, this type of an approach gains its optimum value. . . . In conclusion, the Venezuelan experiment has shown that church growth principles, when applied at the grass roots, can help produce the increased degree of faith and vision in church leaders necessary to raise significantly the rates of growth of the church they influence, and thus they may

more adequately and efficiently fulfill the Great Commission. . . . Were any denomination or mission to provide continuous consecutive leadership focused on communication of the Gospel, which used the goal-setting and achievement-measuring techniques provided by the Gerber tool, much greater church growth could confidently be expected. And growth greater than that ACHIEVED in Venezuela would be startling indeed."

The "Gerber Tool" referred to above by Mr. Wagner is the little book A MANUAL FOR EVANGELISM/CHURCH GROWTH now reprinted by Regal Books under the title GOD'S WAY TO KEEP A CHURCH GOING AND GROWING written by Dr. Vergil Gerber and available through the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstore.

The Missionary Board of the Brethren, as part of an increased emphasis on Church Extension in the United States, has been encouraging the use of church growth methods in the Home Mission churches through workshops and seminars as well as providing materials for use in these churches.



A THANK YOU

Missionary Board of the Brethren Church
530 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805
Gentlemen:

On behalf of the congregation of the Fairless Hills - Levittown Brethren Church we want to thank the members of the Missionary Board, both past and present, who in any way had a part in the establishment and support of the Levittown Church. Also for their advice, encouragement and insight into the future and being instrumental in channeling financial help our way.

Much physical and spiritual progress has been made in the church from the time of its beginning as a mission church to the present self- supporting church it has become this past year.

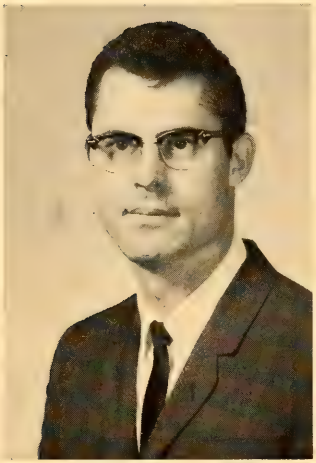
We also thank the Brethren throughout the denomination for their help by means of the $10.00 club which made this a reality.

The efforts of all have been and always will be appreciated and remembered. God bless all of you.

Sincerely in Christ,
Mrs. Robert H. Adams
Corresponding Secretary



LEAP OF FAITH BY MASSILLON, OHIO



On September 13 and 14 a Church Growth workshop was conducted at the Massillon Brethren Church by Dr. Win Arn. Pastor Ronald L. Waters shares some of his thoughts following the Seminar.

I believe it would be the understatement of the year to say, 'everyone who attended came away with a vision of what God is going to do through us.' Much that follows will be sharing the plans that have been made and are being made to reach our goal of 250 responsible members in five years.

In our first meeting after the Seminar we shared together in listing several areas of our program that needed strengthening if we are to meet this goal. From the larger list we narrowed it down to a list of six priorities which are: 1. Prayer, 2. Sunday School, 3. Music Ministry, 4. Home Bible Studies, 5. Youth Ministry, 6. Visitation. We now have six task forces working on plans in each of these areas.

THE PRAYER WARRIORS—as we began to plan, prayer was something that constantly received the most attention. We realize the goal that was set is impossible if we depend only on our humanness, but we are coming to realize more and more that with God directing and working through us, 250 will be surpassed.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL—to begin with we want to praise the Lord for a new high attendance (in the past two years) of 37 last Sunday. We now have seven classes that will minister to all age groups. . . . We are going to take our Sunday School very seriously because we learned that the Sunday School is very important in churches that are growing.

YOUTH MINISTRY—Gene McConahay and Sue Berkey from our Smithville Church have started a youth ministry for us with Dean and Janice Via helping.

MUSIC MINISTRY—This task force has already begun it's work also. Special music will be secured for the Sunday morning worship service and hopefully a choir will soon be started.

HOME BIBLE STUDIES—One session has already been held. . . . We hope this is just the first of many home bible studies that will be open to non-Christians.

VISITATION—The visitation program will be kept as flexible as possible so that many will take part. There will be social, church related and evangelistic calls made. There is one neighborhood that has been set aside for door to door calling until all the homes have been called upon.

The preceding are just beginnings and we expect everyone to get involved in one or more of these ministries.

We appreciate these comments from Pastor Waters and ask for the prayers of all of the brotherhood for this and the other Home Mission churches as they reach out into the communities where they are located for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. PRAISE THE LORD!

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



STAFF ACCEPTS CONSULTANT ROLE

After returning from General Conference, we were invited (in September) to serve as Christian Education Consultants for the nearby Good Samaritan Church—about a mile from Brethren House. We accepted, after due prayer and congregation decision, with thanks to the Lord for this opportunity to broaden our ministry and share teaching ideas with the surrounding community on a regular basis.

Bonnie, Jean and I meet with the Good Samaritan Children and Youth Committee to help design their Total Education Program and develop their curriculum for the months ahead. We will conduct Teacher Training Events and assist individual teachers when requested. We also serve as Participant—Observers for their weekly Church School and staff meetings, which was made possible by shifting the time schedules at Brethren House on Sunday mornings.

These responsibilities, of course, help us to keep in touch with local congregations. Which, in turn, offers us excellent experience when creating and describing materials for distribution from Brethren House to others. We welcome this opportunity to share in an enlarged way what the Brethren Church has made possible through their support of the Brethren House project.

The remuneration for these services will help greatly in establishing a wider local financial base for Brethren House and assist us in our desire to reduce the support required from the Mission Board in the years ahead.

WORKSHOP REQUESTS CONTINUE

Although it's yet early in the Fall, several Florida churches have already scheduled us to conduct Learning Center Workshops for their teachers. Some of these are all day on Saturday; others are two evenings of 2½ hours each. The 5 hours of training include silent prayer, examination of resource materials, singing, handling sample tapes and headsets, working with teaching tools, worship discussion, making sample teaching aids, etc.

Some of the congregations we are working with this Fall are:

—Maximo Presbyterian Church (St. Petersburg)
—Skycrest United Methodist Church (Clearwater)
—Seminole United Methodist Church (Seminole)
—City-wide Christian Education Event (St. Petersburg); (Brethren House will lead one of the 5 sessions).
—Community Presbyterian Church (Dearfield Beach, across the state in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area).

These Workshops serve two purposes: Both an extension of the Brethren House ministry to others, and a source of income for present and future undertakings.

"FAITH AT WORK" Magazine

Each issue of the FAITH AT WORK Magazine has a few pages just inside the covers called "Emergings." As they say, "Emergings is like the bulletin board in your neighborhood laundromat: a place to exchange ideas and resources, new directions and experiments."

Page 1 of the September, 1974 issue included mention of Brethren House and our newsletter, the "Brethren House TIMES." After just a couple weeks, nearly 40 requests have arrived for sample copies. Hopefully many of these will respond and become regular subscribers.

If you yould like to receive the "Brethren House TIMES," just send a voluntary donation with your request to:

Brethren House TIMES
6301 56th Avenue, N.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33709

Or, if you desire a sample copy before deciding, send a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to the same address.

We would welcome more subscribers within the Brethren Church, particularly teachers and members of local Christian Education Committees—plus anyone else who wants to be informed about B. H.

The current issue carries information about our new Bible game called "MAILOPOLY" — about which we'll write more next time.

—Phil

The Missionary Board of the Brethren Church has requested that Berthren House, as well as other Special Ministries such as Riverside Christian Training School, seek ways of increasing local support for their ministries towards reducing the amount needed from the annual budget of the Missionary Board. This action was taken in the light of the increasing demands on the budget for new programs of outreach as well as the need for budget balancing as the near deficit of last year, inflation and devaluation are considered.

We are thankful for the voluntary decrease in support already realized by Brethren House as well as the above report on how God is continuing to open doors for the distinctive ministry of Brethren House as they move towards self support.

YOUR FINEST HOUR

"Do you think our churches can grow and fulfill our mission for Christ?"

This was a question directed to me by an insightful layman—a leader in one of the churches in a recent Pilot Project. This Pilot Project brought me into close contact with five Brethren churches representing a cross section of the larger church.

I weighed his question carefully. Churches grow because they want to grow! Frankly, there are many churches that do not want to grow. They are satisfied to verbalize non-growth excuses and to accept them as truth. Does the Brethren church want to grow? In conversation with numerous Brethren pastors and laymen, I am continually impressed with their positive attitudes and desire for growth. There is an eagerness to learn Growth principles and to apply these principles in their churches.

In the pilot churches, I found the attendance at seminars excellent . . . the participants enthusiastic . . . and the faith in establishing growth goals . . . all reinforced my conviction that growth could be a reality.

"Do you think our churches can grow and fulfill our mission for Christ?"

Considering the question, I realized a church must "risk" for growth. Much as a trapeze artist must leap from bar to bar, so the church must take "leaps of faith" and believe God for what cannot be seen. Such a "leap of faith" is always threatening . . . threatening to those who are comfortable, secure and satisfied. Yet, such a "leap of faith" by both pastor and people seems to be a common denominator of growing churches. In our pilot study, I discovered a willingness to "risk" for Christ's sake.

A third aspect of growth is a willingness to pay the price. There are no short cuts, no magic programs, no cure-alls; but if a church will pay the price to study about how churches grow, to seriously pray for the lost in its community, to train leaders for growth, to apply growth principles, to spend the time and money . . . in short, to pay the price . . . that church will grow! At the completion of each pilot seminar, I sensed a commitment and determination that, under God, those who attended were willing to pay the necessary price in doing God's will . . . and, remember, it is God's will that the Church grow, that His lost children are found.

The churches in the Pilot Project, I believe will grow at different rates, for every church is as distinctive as a fingerprint. Their growth is related to the opportunity afforded by their communities. The measure of success is not how big you are, but how faithful you are to the opportunity God has given in a particular community. How big should a church be? As big as God wants it to be . . . and if there are non-Christians in that community, there is the opportunity for church growth.

"Do you think our churches can grow and fulfill our mission for Christ?"

As I thought through essentials for Church Growth and carefully weighed in my mind the experience in the pilot churches, I was able to whole-heatedly respond . . .

"This could be the Brethren's finest hour!"

An evaluation prepared by Dr. Winfield C. Arn after conducting seminars in Brethren Churches. Dr. Win Arn is director of the INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN CHURCH GROWTH, Arcadia, California.

A CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR PROFILE

The Church Growth Workshop brought outstanding information and revelations to the Park Street Church. This resume will give some insights and after-thoughts.

Dr. Win Arn began **his** preparation for visiting Ashland congregation early last spring. Fifty of our families received and 37 completed and returned the survey which gave foresight to Dr. Arn. The results were compiled and used during the Workshop.

Park Street preparation began when Rev. Eugene Beekley and Arthur DeLozier attended the Church Growth Seminar in Cleveland, sponsored by the Missionary Board for five pilot churches and the Home Mission pastors. Obviously, ours was one of the pilot churches.

The Evangelism Committee scheduled the film "How to Grow a Church" for viewing in April; the book with the same name was studied for the summer quarter by the Berean Class, and additional copies of the book were read and studied by others in the congregation. A second showing of the film was September 8.

After several months of prayerful preparation by the church and specific committees, Dr. Arn began Sunday, September 16. Those who had not viewed the film "How to Grow a Church" were ushered to the Fellowship Hall, while others reviewed one of the survey reports submitted from our church.

From the first meeting prior to the morning worship service, Dr. Arn won the hearts of the

congregation with sincerity, some wit, sage advice, and knowledge of his subject.

He used the overhead projector, films, small groups, and charts to pose questions, and soon the answers became obvious. Graphs were made depicting:

1. the growth of the city's population from 1954-1974. This showed an average annual growth of 350, decreasing to 300.
2. membership and morning attendance of Church School and Worship. With a membership of 499, the average attendance is 225.
3. estimated education accomplishments. Of the adults, everyone has completed 8th grade; 300 completed high school; 100 have graduated from college; 99 have additional graduate work.
4. income categories of our membership. The average income is between $10,000 and $20,000.
5. workers in the church.

The final session pointed up the need for setting goals for growth in our church. These goals were voted upon and passed by the group:

1. In five years the membership of the congregation will be 700.
2. In five years the attendance for Church School and morning worship will be 750.

Readers will note this attendance goal is above the membership goal, which is as it should be. The Church School should be a feeder for membership. Our present pattern is quite unusual, and not a healthy situation.

Fifty-five people were enrolled for all the sessions, and the attendance varied only slightly. Volunteers from the group formed the Task Force, which meets Sunday morning at 8:00. This group is not closed to anyone, and more are invited to participate who are interested and concerned about Church Growth.

This profile was compiled by Mrs. Dorman Ronk, member of the Park Street Church Growth Task Force.

CHURCH GROWTH and THE BRETHREN CHURCH

In Retrospect

Many of the Brethren have attended their district conferences this year where the statistical picture of the state of the church has been presented. For the most part it has been a discouraging record. Decreasing Sunday School and worship attendance and decreasing membership have been evident. Although Annual membership additions in the past ten years have averaged 959, the annual average loss by death, transfers and roll revision has been 1,058, which has kept our membership on a declining trend so that in only three years out of the last ten have we shown increases: 7 in 1965; 59 in 1968 and 231 in 1973.

This presentation included some of the ways in which the various boards felt they could share in helping the Brethren Church grow. Included were recorded discussions by denominational leaders indicating that growth was possible in many areas of the church. The positive assertion was made that Brethren Churches can grow in the words, "Brethren, we can grow; we must grow; we will grow." We believe this!

The Process

Previously church growth awareness came to a number of pastors and leaders through concern about our statistical picture, reading church growth literature and contacts with denominations that are growing. Board Group (periodic informal meetings of Board presidents and denominational executives) became aware of the need for growth and had Dr. Win Arn come to one of their meetings as a resource person. Out of this experience came a Church Growth Seminary, April 1 and 2, for Home Missions pastors sponsored by the Missionary Board with Dr. Win Arn and Rev. Arden Gilmer as resource leaders. (The pastors and moderators of five Church Growth Pilot churches shared in this training).

September 10 through 22 Dr. Win Arn conducted Church Growth Seminars in the following Brethren Churches: Trinity (Canton), Massillon, Park Street (Ashland), Bryan, and North Manchester.

February 7 and 8 a Church Growth Seminar by Dr. Win Arn is planned for the Southeast District.

The Prospect

Congregation	1973 Report	Goals 5 yr.	Net incr. 1 yr.
Trinity (Canton)	Membership—147	300	31
Massillon	Membership— 37	250	43
Park St. (Ashland)	Membership—499	700	41
	S.S. Ave.—171	750	116
	M.W. Ave.—223	750	106
Bryan	Membership—366	540	35
	S.S. Ave.—194	474	56
	M.W. Ave.—187	474	58
North Manchester	Membership—492	775	57
	M.W.—290	625	67

(These goals represent a "Leap of Faith" on the part of each congregation as they considered what they might believe God for in Church Growth.)

(continued on next page)

The Response

11 new members, 4 new members, 1 public profession of faith . . . 28 rededications, 11 committments for service as teachers, 11 rededications . . . Task Forces organized—Areas: Prayer, visitation, Sunday School, Neighborhood Bible Study (one begun with attendance of 10, one congregation's goal 6-8, another to establish one in 4 weeks), talent search, Pastor's Class for new members, 30 for 30 prayer vigil (30 hours of prayer seeking 30 renewed or new members by year's end), new greeter systems and visitor followup, pastor preaching on committment, talk Church Growth, Worker (Class II—Outreach) recruitment and training, etc.

These are some of the results reported after about two weeks following the Church Growth Seminar. These were the same people and congregations—but with a difference!

Changes Have Begun

Our attitude has changed from negative to positive—our Church can and is growing! Duty has become opportunity and drudgery has become a joyful sharing of the good news about what God is doing for us and about what He wants to do for others through us.

The Method

Evangelism is more than just being there. It is proclaiming the Gospel and persuading all to come to Christ as Saviour. It is leading new Christians in the way of discipleship and helping them to become active, serving members of the church (the Body of Christ) which in turn reaches out to win others and to seek to meet their needs.

Our Service Orders

All power is given to Me. Go, and as you are going, disciple the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to demonstrate all things I have commanded so these things may be observed by others: and, lo, I am with you always. (Based on Matthew 28:18-20)

Postscript

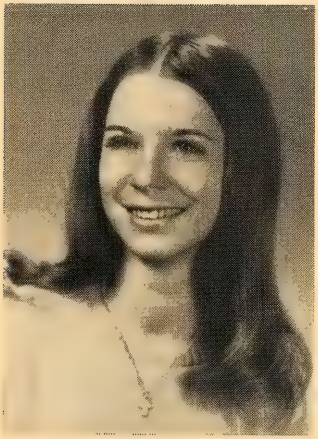
Some of our congregations had already been growing before we entered into this church growth emphasis with Dr. Win Arn. Others are beginning to move into this emphasis after attending church growth seminars. The five pilot churches were chosen to evaluate the effectiveness of these seminars in a variety of local church situations.

Even as we have shared some of the exciting reports in capsuled form between the pilot churches and now through this article, we would strongly urge all congregations experiencing growth to share their experiences and methods for wider circulation through the Brethren Evangelist. The Central Council office is coordinating the Church Growth Seminars and would be happy to receive and prepare such input for publication.

The Brethren Church can grow and is growing!

Submitted by Smith F. Rose, Central Counciil Executive Secretary and Church Growth coordinator.





by Beth Gilmer

LET'S GROW!

We, the Brethren Church, as a denomination, are concerned about church growth. We want to grow, not die! In five of our churches, a specialist has been brought in to conduct seminars on this subject. What part can the Sisterhood play in this church growth emphasis? It can play an important part! Growth should take place in all the branches of a church, including Sisterhood, Brotherhood, BYC, W.M.S., Laymen, etc. However, I am convinced that you must have something extraordinary to offer if you want to gain members and keep them. You can go out door to door and invite people to come, but if your organizations are dull and dry, who can blame them if they don't come back again?

How about your Sisterhood? Does it offer enough to make the girls want to come back again and again? Take a good look at your Sisterhood —the good points and the bad. How can it be improved? How can it be made more interesting? On the other hand, if you have good ideas that are working for you, please write me and share your ideas so that we all may profit from them. Let's continually strive for something more.

On the national level, we want to help you as much as we can. We have program booklets available which include the guidelines and other valuable information. We also have Sisterhood Manuals which consists of the reason and purpose for Sisterhood, how to organize a new society, pointers and helps for successful meetings, and the Sisterhood constitution. We have thank offering boxes available, too. We also will try to help you with any other problems you may run across. Write to me or Joan McKinney at 415 Claremont Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805 to tell us of good ideas you may have or to receive the material that can be sent to you.

Growth must start on the inside; it demands quality. If we, as Sisterhood girls, get enthusiasm for growth, it will catch on in the other groups of the church. Enthusiasm is catching! Let's work with our church and denomination to grow. And let us, the Sisterhood, be leaders in this growth. It can be done!

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



SHANNON - FABIAN

Miss Sheryl Shannon and Mr. Jay Fabian were united in marriage on August 17, 1974, at the Ashland Theological Seminary Chapel in Ashland. The bride is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas A. Shannon of Damascus, Ohio, and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Fabian of North Madison, Ohio.

Sheryl has been active in Brethren Camp and Youth Work for a number of years, serving on the staff at Camp Bethany, and as past president of the National Sisterhood. She is presently teaching Kindergarten and Curriculum Supervisor at The Christian Heritage School in Gainesville, Fla., where they reside. Both are graduates of Ashland College, where Jay holds the record for the one-half mile.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Derby, Kansas—8 by baptism

Garber Brethren—3 by baptism

Twelve Mile, Indiana
Corinth Brethren—14 by baptism



CHURCH NEWS

NORTH MANCHESTER, INDIANA

The North Manchester Brethren Church was spiritually blessed with the visit of Rev. Jim Black of Milledgeville, Ill. Beginning his week of evangelistic services with the Sunday morning worship hour (Sept. 1), the congregation immediately "warmed up" to his enthusiastic presentation of the Bible. This Sunday introduction also gave rise to curiosity as to how he planned to enlarge the theme of "Seven Ducks In Dirty Water," and also how he could explain "Samson's courting Delilah on a 750-cc. Honda!" This portrayal proved most applicable to the 20th century.

As the week progressed, we were made to see that his unique messages—and sermon titles—could well be substantiated by the Holy Scriptures, and many rededications and commitments were made to the Lord, in addition to two first time confessions.

This spiritual revival was an ideal setting for the Church Growth Seminar which was to follow with Dr. Win Arn in a few weeks. Our level of commitment was already on the rise, and we pray for God's continual blessings as we strive to increase His kingdom here in North Manchester and throughout the world.

We commend Brother Black for his ministry, and pray that he maintains health and strength to continue serving the Lord and the Brethren Church in this evangelistic capacity.

—Woodrow A. Immel, Pastor

TWELVE MILE, INDIANA

(Corinth Brethren)

Average attendance of 80 children per day were present at the Vacation Bible School conducted under the direction of Mrs. Shirley Easter last June. An evening class for teens which was taught by Rev. and Mrs. Kindley was an addition to the usual VBS format.

Corinth Brethren had the distinction of being the recipient of third prize for its float in the Twelve Mile, Indiana 4th of July parade.

A new B.Y.F. group was formed by the youth of the church which is under the direction of Rev. and Mrs. Kindley and Mr. and Mrs. David Gunter. Praises to the Lord are given for the fine efforts of these young people.

The annual Homecoming was held on October 6th with an afternoon program of devotions, special music and a playlet by the youth. A period of reminiscing concluded the activities for this occasion.

Revival services were held from October 7th through the 13th with Rev. William Kerner of the Roann, Indiana Brethren Church bringing the messages for these services. Dan Donaldson of the Mexico, Indiana Brethren Church led the hymn singing at each evening service. The Spirit of the Lord was evident along with the good attendance at each session.

A new spirit of revival is anticipated for the balance of 1974 and into the coming years with the youth groups and Sisterhood showing signs of healthy development and the activities of the W.M.S.

The words of the Psalmist echo our thoughts "Let all the people praise thee, O God, let all the people praise thee." (Psalm 67:3).

Report submitted by
Pam Spencer
Corresponding Secretary



THE CHANGELESS WORD IN A CHANGING WORLD

Support Church Extension through Brethren Home Missions—
vote for expanding outreach in 1975

"THE ETHIC FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE AS SET FORTH BY JESUS"

Louis F. Gough

This is the second installment in a series of condensed papers prepared on the study on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage by the Brethren Ministerial Association. The first segment of this study was published in the September 21, 1974 issue with the major paper having Dr. Bruce Stark as the author and with responses to the paper by Rev. Richard Kuns and Rev. John Brownsberger.

This portion of the study entitled An Ethic For Divorce and Remarriage as Set Forth By Jesus is presented by Dr. Louis Gough, professor at Ashland Theological Seminary, with responses by Dr. Jerry Flora, professor at ATS and Rev. Charles Lowmaster, pastor, Louisville Brethren Church, Louisville, Ohio. The third part of this study pertaining to Divorce and Remarriage in Church History will be forthcoming in a near future issue.

Sermonic statements made by Jesus relative to the problem of divorce and remarriage are reported in Luke 16:18 and Matthew 5:32. The proviso "except for fornication" in the Matthean report has occasioned a debate in the Church that has concerned itself with the ethics of Jesus as to the conditions acceptable to him for divorce and remarriage. The question is, may a person whose spouse has been unfaithful through extra marital sexual relations be free to divorce and marry another person as implied by the "exception phrase," both in Matthew 5 and 19:3-9? And if Jesus did authorize a qualifying condition under which a person might be permitted to divorce and remarry, why did Luke (16:18) and Mark (10:2-12) not report this in their gospels? Stated in another way: Is a total denial of the right of a person to divorce and remarry as given in Luke and Mark the true ethic of Jesus; or did he allow for a liberation of this ethic by implying that fornication would alter a given situation as reported in Matthew 5:32 and 19:3-9? Can it be said that inconsistency is in evidence here in the gospel record; and if not, what is the genuine ethic of Jesus in this matter?

A satisfactory answer to these questions may be found (1) in the light which an accurate understanding of the context in which Jesus gave his pronouncement and (2) in the knowledge of the process which the words of Jesus went through in taking their place in the written gospels.

1. **The Context in which Jesus proclaimed his ethic for divorce and remarriage:** The sermonic statement given in Matthew 5:32 (parallel to Luke 16:18) is introduced by Jesus with the words, "It was also said . . . " (Mt. 5:31). These introductory words tie Jesus' statement about divorce to the subject of the so-called "shameful thing" which was currently debated in its connection with the Mosaic divorce law (Deut. 24:1 f.). Similarly the pronouncement of Jesus recorded in Mark 10:2 and Matthew 19:3 rose out of a discussion that Jesus had with the Pharisees on the same subject—the proper interpretation of the "shameful thing" (**'erwath dabdar**).

The law read ". . . if he (a husband) find some shameful thing in her (his wife), he shall write her a certificate of divorce and send her out of his house, And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife" (Deut. 24:1 f.). Three schools of Judaism took different positions on the interpretation of the key phrase:

> Beth Shammai say: A man should not divorce his wife unless he has found her guilty of some unseemly conduct, as it says, because he hath found some unseemly thing in her. Beth Hillel, however, say: [that he may divorce her] even if she has merely spoilt his food since it says, because he has found some unseemly thing in her.
>
> R. Akiba says [he may divorce her] even if he finds another woman more beautiful than she is, as it says, it cometh to pass if she find no favor in his eyes. (**Seder Nashim, Gitlin,** ix, 90a.)

A "shameful thing," though a term characteristically indefinite, was not interpreted in terms of fornication or adultery since the terms for those crimes were not used in this precept. They were dealt with in no uncertain ways earlier in the Law Code. The question did not concern itself with the dissolution of marriages through cases of adultery, fornication, incest or rape. In fact the injunction that required a man who divorced his wife on the grounds of a "shameful thing" to give her a certificate of divorce was as much a safeguard for her future as it was a means for freeing her husband to marry again. This fact all the more ties Jesus' words into the context of divorce for causes other than infidelity. Acts of fornication or adultery covered in other parts of the Law, Lev. 20:10; 11; 21:9; Deut. 22:20, 22, 23-25, were not considered in the context of divorce issues. The matter of remarriage was out of the question in these cases of sexual sins since death by stoning or burning was dealt out in every case to the infractors.

It is therefore in the context of the issue under question, i.e., the interpretation of a "shameful thing," not in that of adultery or fornication that Jesus makes his statement. The context in which it appears was cited at the head of the discussions with the phrases reported by Matthew, "for any cause" (19:3).

For causes associated with a "shameful thing" under discussion Jesus proceeds, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her" (Mk. 10:11). In Matthew the same pronouncement is made with the exception that the additional phrase appears, i.e., "except for fornication" (Mt. 19:9). This in reality explicity narrows the issue to only those cases in which marital infidelity is **not** the cause for divorce and holds the discussion under the head of the "shameful thing." It is strongly inferred here in Matthew that the husband whose wife had committed adultery could be married to another woman without it being pronounced against him that he by that act had committed adultery since the "exception clause" changes the conditions under which the pronouncement is made so as to relegate it to another category.

It is evident that Jesus' pronouncement as given in Mark is essentially the same as in Matthew in view of the context in which Jesus spoke. The question might be asked, Why did the Evangelists frame the statement of Jesus with the difference which appears? For one thing Mark did not need to add the phrase since in the context the shorter statement was sufficiently clear, i.e., that it is tantamount to an act of adultery for a man to divorce his wife **only** because of "a shameful thing" in her life or for any other cause in that category and to marry another woman. It is likely that the wording of Mark in his Greek translation might be closer to the very words of Jesus, as far as that is possible, than those found in the Matthean statement. Then why, if by the context the statement as reported by Mark is made clear, did Matthew feel that he should render the statement as he did?

First of all, the authors of the sources of both of our Gospels knew full well the context in which Jesus made his statement and the limitations set forth in that context. But Matthew could have felt it advisable to make explicit what was implied in the context by adding the phrase, "except for fornication" and thereby prevent an occasion for a misinterpretation of Jesus' teaching, which might arise from a failure to keep the pronouncement within its context. By doing this he does not alter the truth expressed in the pronouncement of Jesus. He merely brings out what can be correctly read between the lines from the context. And he makes it abundantly clear that Jesus by his pronouncement was not dealing with cases for the dissolution of marriage for sexually immoral reasons. These are dealt with in other contexts; and penalties attached to them ruled out all considerations for remarriage, i.e., death.

The context has a similar bearing on the interpretation of the pronouncement as reported in Mark 10:12 and Luke 16:18. In these the application of the same principle is merely reasonably applied to extenuating consequences which would ensue in a divorce and remarriage for any cause other than "fornication," i.e., such as a mere shameful thing.

2. **Just a few comments as to the process through which the words of Jesus underwent in gaining their rightful place in the written Gospel:** The concern here is how could Matthew report an additional statement attributed to Jesus which some have mistakenly thought altered the principle laid down by Jesus? As already observed it is very probable that it is Matthew who injected elements in his report out of the context which did not alter the principle laid down by Jesus but only made explicit that which was implicit. For those who were fully knowledgeable of the context did not need a delineation of the context. This could have been true of Mark, drawing as he did from Peter for the Second Gospel and also of Luke as he drew from Paul for the Third Gospel. Matthew, thinking of those readers who might not be knowledgeable of the context, reported the words of Jesus in a way which would render the interpretation validly out of their context in the way in which Jesus intended for them to be understood.

The apostles were uniquely endowed with the gift of revelation. (Cf. John 16:13 f.; 20:22 f. and Matthew 16:17-19.) In receiving the words of Jesus in principle and reporting them as enlightened by the Holy Spirit Matthew was responsibly executing the special office of apostleship as given to him by Jesus. (See F. F. Bruce, **Books and Parchments,** rev. ed., Westwood, N.J.: Fleming H. Revell, 1963, p. 106.)

In conclusion, therefore, a real wholeness can be seen in the pronouncement of Jesus on divorce and remarriage as reported by the three Evangelists when that pronouncement is kept in its proper context and when the process by which the spoken words of Jesus became written Scripture is properly understood. A summarization of the conclusions drawn from this study which sets forth the wholeness of Jesus' teaching might best be stated in the form of paraphrastic exposition of the harmonized gospel account of Jesus' discussion with the Pharisees and his disciples as reported by Mark, Luke and Matthew:

> Seeking to put him to the test, Pharisees brought Jesus into their discussion on the subject of divorce and remarriage by asking him the question: "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?" To this Jesus replied by asking, "What did Moses command you?" The Pharisees had a ready answer, for the question upon which their current discussions turned was drawn from a Mosaic law. They said, Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away. This they quoted from their "tradition of the elders" as drawn from Deut. 24:1 f. Jesus was quick to point out to them that this accommodation was only a provisional one. It was in allowance for the hardness of their hearts that God had permitted Moses to make this provision. But the eternal purpose of God is found in the divine act of creation:
>
> > "God made them male and female. For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; consequently they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man tear apart."
>
> When Jesus was asked to explain further about his answer, he replied:

(*continued on next page*)

"Whoever divorces his wife [just because she does not find favor in her husband's eyes and he sees something shameful in her, as mentioned in the Mosaic causitry which by Christ was being superceded by the higher principle revealed in Creation] and marries another woman he commits adultery against her."

This pronouncement does not cover cases in which marital infidelity are involved since these are dealt with in other parts of the Law not in the context of the discussion here. These cases carry a death penalty and thereby rule out the question of remarriage, the discussions of which should come under a different topic. In light of this Jesus could have framed the pronouncement on divorce and remarriage thusly:

"Whoever divorces his wife, for any cause other than fornication and marries another commits adultery."

As to the wife's responsibilty for keeping intact the marriage bond, like the husband so the wife: "If she divorces her husband [under conditions already mentioned in this discussion with the Pharisees] and marries another, she commits adultery" (Mk. 10:12), and the man who marries her also commits adultery (Lk. 16:18).

Conclusive Deductions
Drawn from Principles Set
Forth by Jesus

1. From the beginning it has been ordained that every marriage bond joined together by God must not be put asunder by man (Mk. 10:59; Mt. 19:4-8).
2. Divorce for "any" cause is unacceptable to God (Lk. 16:18; Mk. 10:10-11).
3. In making the exception "fornication" (marital infidelity) Jesus rules out all other causes for divorce (Mt. 5:32; 19:9).
4. In making the single exception "fornication" Jesus infers that the marriage bond had been broken by the spouse guilty of the act.
 a. Divorce is thereby a possible sequel, without incrimination attached to the spouse so transgressed.
 b. In which case the innocent spouse is free to marry another spouse without incurring the guilt of adultery since the first marriage no longer continues to exist.
5. A spouse who divorces his spouse while the marriage bond joined by God exists for any cause other than fornication thereby enters into a partnership of adultery—both the divorcee and the person who marries him or her (Lk. 16:18; Mk. 10:10-11).

"THE ETHIC FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE AS SET FORTH BY JESUS":

A Response by Jerry Flora

SOME QUESTIONS ON METHOD

A. A Complicated Problem. The question we are dealing with is a molecule compounded of many concerns, each of them a whole universe within itself. What is posed appears as **a question of pastoral care and ethics:** how can the pastor deal redemptively with divorced persons considering remarriage?

Behind this question we face **a theological problem:** that nature of the Church and the Christian life. Is the Christian both saint and sinner at one and the same time, or is he capable of a life of pure, obedient love? Is the Church a mixed body of committed persons whose eternal distinction only God knows, or is it "the covenanted and disciplined community of those walking in the way of Jesus Christ?"

A further question presents itself: **the interpretative** question of the proper distinction between law and gospel. The eclectic nature of "the mind of the Brethren" compounds the problem, for our roots lie in Reformed, Anabaptist, and Pietist traditions. But the question remains: is the gospel a new law? Was Jesus a new Moses? Brethren, with their stress on obedience to the New Testament, have scarcely been in danger of lawlessness. But outsiders have accused us of being legalistic, perhaps because of confusion on this question.

B. A Step-by-Step Approach. The point is simply this: we cannot solve the pastoral, ethical problem until first we deal with the theological and interpretive questions which are its base. We can

tackle this complex of problems by employing a classic fourfold division of labor.

In the **biblical** field (1) we need to describe the general historical situation in the first century and account for how it got that way. (2) We must then specifically describe the origin of the New Testament documents bearing on our problem and identify their meaning for the original readers. Dr. Gough's paper has performed an excellent service at just this point.

In **church-historical** and **theological** study we attempt to synthesize "what it meant" back then and "what it means" today with a view to two thousand years of church history. We must study to understand what fifty generations of other Christians have believed, whether we agree with their conclusions or disagree. And we must synthesize our findings, using the finest resources of modern vocabulary, thought, and faith.

Now (at last!) we are ready for the **ethical** question of applied theology: how is the pastor to apply this biblical-historical-theological synthesis in the pluralism of present cultural experience? It should be obvious that such questions of pastoral care simply cannot be answered simply. The painstaking steps called for here are not meant to be an encumbrance on the gospel. Rather, they are the method we use to unlock its relevance in responsible fashion for our own situation. "The Ethic for Divorce and Remarriage as Set Forth by Jesus" is a serious study in the biblical area of concern. To that specific study we now turn our attention.

SPECIFIC RESPONSE

A. The Teaching of Jesus. It is asserted that the question of infidelity had no bearing on Jesus' teachings about divorce and remarriage. Divorce was legal on the ground of some "shameful thing" (Deut. 24:1). This could not be adultery or fornication, for these sins were punished with death (Lev. 20:10; 21:9; Deut. 22:20-25).

However, there is also a case for reading the evidence in a different manner. (1) It is true that adultery was not considered ground for divorce **in the Pentateuch,** but the Old Testament concept of adultery was a double standard, not that of modern society. (2) By **the time of the New Testament** the situation was different. The Jews in Palestine apparently lost the right of capital punishment at about the time of Christ (John 18:31). The major exception seems to be that the Romans allowed the Sanhedrin the right to execute persons who committed capital crimes within the Temple precincts.

"When (Jesus') mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly" (Matt. 1:18-19). There was no question of death for Mary's presumed infidelity. Instead, Joseph, as a righteous man, resolved to divorce his fiancee and, as a merciful son of David, he decided to do it quietly. (Note that among the Jews betrothal was the formal, binding agreement. Those engaged to be married were called husband and wife, and only divorce could break off their betrothal.)

Here, as elsewhere, Jesus' ministry bore a dual radicality. On the one hand he asserted an ideal so severe as to be unbearable in the disciples' way of thinking (Matt. 19:10): anything which breaks the sacred Union of marriage violates the will of God (Matt. 5:28, 32; 19:3, 9). It is sin. On the other hand Jesus forgave such sinners with a compassionate authority. From the theological base of the Fatherhood of the God who is holy love, the Son proclaimed both the gift and the demand of grace, unrelieved and unreconciled.

B. The Teaching of Paul. It is asserted that Paul never considered divorce between Christians, but only separation. The argument is that the Greek verbs used in I Corinthians 7:10-11 do not appear in the Old or New Testament as technical terms for marriage and divorce. Thus, Paul must be speaking of separation as a permanent, legal solution of marital crisis for Christians.

Again, however, there is a case for interpreting the evidence differently. In terms of **the language employed,** the Old Testament had no technical terms for marriage and divorce in either its Hebrew or Greek versions. Both verbs used in I Corinthians 7:10-11 were acceptable first-century terms for divorce. The first one in particular became almost a technical term due to its frequent use in papyri marriage contracts.

There are also **more general reasons** for thinking that I Corinthians 7:10-16 may have in mind at points the eventuality of divorce involving Christians. (1) Divorce from bed and board (separation) seems to have been unknown in the New Testament world and among Jews in particular. The only divorce they knew was absolute divorce (from the bond of matrimony) with the right to remarry. (2) To separate permanently while the marriage bond remains inviolate goes against Paul's teaching elsewhere on the mutual duties inherent in Christian marriage (I Cor. 7:3-5; Eph. 5:21-33). Believers are either married or unmarried; there are no other categories. (3) I Corinthians 7:15 most likely refers to freedom from the bond of marriage for a believer divorced because of his or her conversion to Christ, with the accompanying right to remarry.

Paul's contributions to our understanding of divorce in the New Testament are mainly two: (1) He applies the words of Jesus to marriages between Christians (I Cor. 7:10-11) and thereby gives us an important key to interpreting the specific statements of Jesus. Jews did not expect Gentiles to observe the Mosaic law, and Paul did not expect pagans to live by the ethic of the new covenant (I Cor. 5:9—6:11 is "must" reading at this point). (2) Paul deals with cases not covered by the words of Christ, marriages in which one partner is not within the covenant community (I Cor. 7:12-16). In such instances the apostle does what every pastor since him has had to do: he improves on the basis of what he knows of God's will, trusting that for the rest he will be led by the Holy Spirit of Christ. The modern pastor, in dealing redemptively with divorced persons (whether by law or gospel) on behalf of the redeeming community, may need to improvise—and he should not fear to do so. "Even in the ethic of marriage the last word must be: to live on the Divine forgiveness."

A RESPONSE ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

by William H. Kerner

After a careful study of Dr. Louis Gough's paper, "The Ethic for Divorce and Remarriage as Set Forth by Jesus," we realize how far away the Christian community is today from the ethic that Jesus gave us. As a whole, most Christians of our day derive their ethic for marriage and divorce from the secular world culture around them rather than from their New Testament. When we consider the words of Jesus and the ethic He put forth in regard to this subject, and then observe the lives of people in our churches, we are painfully aware of the need for much teaching on this subject.

The Christian ethics of marriage and divorce needs to be solidly and vigorously taught in our Churches to combat this condition. Therefore a response has to be made to the high ethic that Jesus set down for Christian believers by answer to this question, "How can we instill in the lives of believers today the ethic that Jesus put forth on marriage and divorce?"

I. THE NEED FOR TEACHING ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Dr. Gough states, "Throughout its history the church has been in agreement universally in its understanding that the eternal purpose of God is that the marriage bond is ordained of God and that it is not to be broken my man through adultery or for any other cause."[1] This represents the core of teaching that is being ignored or bypassed by many in our churches today. We must strengthen and reinforce this teaching in the ministry of the Church. Let us look more closely at this core thought. The Bible says that marriage is an exclusive relationship: "The Lord God said, it is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him. —And the man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man. For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." (Gen. 2:18, 23, 24.) Here we see that marriage is a total unity of persons, physically, emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. This exclusive unity between marriage partners is totaled up in the concept of "one flesh." Jesus quotes this concept as the authority for His teaching on marriage and divorce in Matthew 19:5, 6. From Jesus we learn that marriage is to be permanent for the physical life time of the partners. Also the fact that the Lord we love is a part of any marriage, raises the question of marriage to non-believers. It was to prevent the dangers and the liabilities of mixed marriages that Abraham saw to it that his own son, Isaac, would not take a wife from the daughters of the Canaanites. That Christians are to marry only within the household of faith seems to be a neglected teaching today.

The exclusive relationship of the bond of marriage in becoming "one flesh" tells us further that among Christians there should be no separation, desertion, or divorce. They are out of the question. "The very idea of irremediable divorce or desertion by a Christian, now that we have the New Testament Scriptures, is in itself preposterous.[2] What is desperately needed in the Christian community today in regard to marriage, divorce, and remarriage, is the recovery and teaching of the Biblical ethic of "one flesh." And the need is now.

II. THE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The Church as shown to us in the New Testament is a community of redeemed people. A people whose identity was different from the world. A people who expected to have a life style different from the world. A people who loved the Lord Jesus Christ and were glad to follow His teachings. The Church today must strive to be nothing less than this community of His redeemed people if we are to cope with the problems of divorce and remarriage in a permissive age.

To be God's people requires discipline. Holiness of life comes through personal discipline. And when the Church loses this basic character of holiness its identity as God's people is lost. So we find that discipline must be a regular part of congregational life. "If a Church leaves undisciplined one who is guilty of moral dereliction or of the teaching of heresy it may preserve or create unity among Christians. But such unity is unholy and not of the unity of the character of God. It is a mixture of pure and unpure, and lacks the cement of truth. Sooner or later it will come apart."[3] Matthew 18:15-18 is the classic passage on the necessity of Church discipline, but it is in Galatians six that we find that those who are spiritual are to help restore the fallen brother. "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any tresspass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted." (Gal. 6:1) This is the "key," and indeed the purpose of discipline. There is no other reason for discipline except to restore a person in love to the redeemed community. We have to love our brother deeply enough that when cases of separation in marriage, divorce, or re-

marriage happen in our congregation, we are willing to be the redemptive community of believers we are called out to be.

And the necessity for Church discipline goes even deeper. In the great commission we are told to go and "make disciples" of all nations. Discipline is part of that discipling. Discipline and evangelism go together. In both we are deeply concerned with human lives that are in rebellion with God. The non-christian is not right with God because that person has not accepted God's Grace in Jesus Christ. And the immoral Christian is not right with God because that person is not living in God's Grace in Jesus Christ. In both cases a person is presented with the opportunity to being made free from the power of sin, by coming under the rule of Christ. By being in Christ's kingdom and walking in His way. Discipline of marriage and divorce, then, is like evangelism. The act of bringing a person to a decision of faith, to have faith or non-faith. "Congregational discipline belongs to the essence of the Church as much as evangelism because both are inescapable implications of the gospel. —What is the point of adding people to the Church through gospel proclamation of membership if that Church becomes meaningless because of a failure of discipline? Evangelism is soon undermined if people discover that in the absence of discipline to belong or not to belong to the Church really makes no difference."[4]

To reduce the evils of battered, torn, and broken lives, the result of divorce and remarriage within the Christian community, we must face these issues with determination. There must be vigorous teaching about marriage and divorce in our Churches. And there must be a willingness to discipline in love, with the aim of restoration of the brother or sister on love.

This is not a polemic. It is a plea from a pastor's heart.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Louis Gough, **The Ethic for Divorce and Remarriage as Set Forth by JESUS,** p 3.

[2] Oliver Buswell, **A Systematic Theology of The Christian Religion,** vol. I, p 393.

[3] J. Robertson McQuilkin, What Ever Happened To Church Discipline?, **Christianity Today,** Mar. 29, 1974, p 10.

[4] Marlin **Jeschke, Discipling The Brother,** p 282.



MISSION POSSIBLE—BY FAITH

Church Extension throughout the United States through Brethren Home Missions

World Religious News in Review

WYCLIFFE BIBLE FOUNDER HONORED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Dr. William Cameron (Uncle Cam") Townsend, founder of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, has been honored for his work with two citations during World Bible Translation ceremonies here.

The 1974 Nelson Bible Award, termed by some the highest honor in the religious field, was presented to Dr. Townsend for the "unparalleled contribution (made) through his work in Wycliffe to people around the world who otherwise would never have had God's holy Word."

The Honor Citation Award for 1974 of the National Religious Broadcasters was presented to the 78-year-old Bible translator for the use of "descriptive linguistics and other methods of modern technology" which he has fostered through Wycliffe Bible Translators the past 40 years.

In addition, a copy of Dr. Townsend's biography, written by James and Marti Hefley and just published by Word Books under the Title, "Uncle Cam," was presented to him. At the ceremonies in Lisner Auditorium here, a new Wycliffe multimedia presentation, "If Your God is So Great," had its premiere.

'HIGHEST FLIGHT' NEW TESTAMENT DISTRIBUTED BY 3 AIRLINES

COLORADO SPRINGS (EP) — Travelers on Braniff International, Texas International, and Southwest Airlines are reading something besides newspapers, magazines and business reports these days — copies of The Highest Flight New Testament.

As an added bonus, each traveler gets to keep a copy of the colorful paperback, which has been made available through High Flight Foundation here.

Each of the New Testaments contain a personal testimony by former Apollo astronaut James Irwin, who organized the High Flight Foundation two years ago as a vehicle for "space age" evangelism.

The Southern Baptist layman, who walked on the moon during the 1971 Apollo 15 expedition, said, "It's a great thrill just to see an airplane go by and realize that there's a High Flight New Testament on board. You wonder if it's being read. Is it changing someone's life? It may be leading someone to his own high flight with God—a flight he'll never forget."

MAJOR EVANGELICAL CAMPAIGN PLANNED FOR WALES IN '75

NEWPORT, Wales (EP)—A massive evangelistic campaign organized by evangelicals and titled, "Wales For Christ, 1975," is expected to draw the support and participation of almost all religious bodies.

It will be Wales' own version of "Call to the North," a large-scale and highly successful evangelistic campaign in 1972 that was backed by the Churches of northern England.

The campaign is the outcome of years of planning by a committee representing most of the Christian communions in this principality. The year 1975 was chosen because the timing would coincide with the publication of a new translation of the Bible into Welsh planned for St. David's Day, March 1, 1975, giving the campaign added impact in Welsh-speaking areas.

All congregations are asked to designate January 1975, especially the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, for devotional preparation.

BILL BRIGHT CITES MISQUOTES, UNDERSCORES KOREAN FREEDOM

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (EP) — Korean church leaders who went to jail did so not because they were preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ but because they were accused of being involved in politics, according to the president of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Dr. Bill Bright, citing misquotations attributed to him, charged that false press reports distorted his statements during Explo '74 in Seoul where 323,419 registered from 79 countries in mid-August.

"At no time have I endorsed President Park's policies, but neither have I criticized them," Dr. Bright said in a reference to formerly strict policies of Chung Hee Park of Korea. "I would have no occasion to do either. I have simply presented the facts as they are. I do not know the individuals who are in prison nor do I question their motives. I am simply saying that Explo '74 . . . was an obvious contradiction of what I would call Christian persecution or even repression."

Dr. Bright declared that "there is more freedom to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Korea than there is here in the United States. Though this may come as a surprise to many Americans, we know from years of experience that one or two atheistic students or parents in a local high school situation in the United States have prevented the claims of Jesus Christ from being presented to the entire student body. Such is not the case in the Republic of Korea, nor in many other countries of the world."

EVANGELIST ORAL ROBERTS SEES 'NATION ON WAY TO HELL'

DALLAS (EP)—Evangelist Oral Roberts told a meeting here that "the whole nation is on the way to hell" because of the misguided ethical standards which pervaded the country.

"It seems like everyone today is trying to get the best of the next guy before he gets the best of them," he told trustees of the Methodist Hospital of Dallas.

He said this trend could be reversed "in a single day" if everyone would stop trying to get something and start giving something instead.

All mankind's ills could be solved with what he called "seed faith"—a principle that acknowledges that God is the source of the total supply of everything." Once that fact is realized, the next step is to plant a seed. "Then you can expect a miracle, or you might want to call it a harvest. I don't know how this idea stands up to theology. I just know it works."

MAO JOURNAL SEES RUSSIAN PEOPLE UNDER THE 'INFLUENCE OF RELIGION'

PEKING (EP)—An article in an official Chinese publication here described the Soviet Union as a nation "tainted by official corruption, juvenile decadence and superstition," and added that the Soviet masses are increasingly coming under the "influence of religion," Chinese Radio reported.

The broadcast quoted the Sept. 25 issue of Peoples' Daily as stating that the Soviet government is spending millions of rubles to assist the Russian Orthodox Church. The paper said it gleaned the information from views presented in the Soviet Press.

FULLER SEMINARY EXPANDS TO SEATTLE

PASADENA, Calif. (EP)—By extension, Fuller Theological Seminary has spread its teaching ministry to Seattle, offering graduate-level courses taught by commuting professors from the Southern California campus.

Classes opened Sept. 28 at University Presbyterian Church. Rev. Burdette Palmberg of Mercer Island Covenant Church, chairman of the steering committee for the Fuller Seminary Seattle Extension, called the program a "decentralized kind of education."

He said the Pacific Northwest was in a theological-education vacuum because there are no major Protestant seminaries there.

ISRAEL TELLS U.N., IT SEES NO CIRCUMSTANCE PARTITIONING JERUSALEM

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (EP)—Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon categorically stated that he does not see any circumstances under which Israel would permit a partition of Jerusalem.

He told a press conference at the United Nations that Jerusalem was a religious and not political problem and that Israel was prepared, "when the time comes," to offer an operational status to the various faiths represented in the Holy City.

He said that there was already an Arab minority in Israel and that the neighboring Arab countries should absorb the Palestinian refugees as much as Israel has absorbed Jewish refugees from other parts of the world.

NEWS BRIEFS

NAE

WRC THANKSGIVING OFFERING TO AID FAMINE VICTIMS

WHEATON, Ill.—Each year in Thanksgiving services, churches across the country conduct special offerings for the global ministry of the World Relief Commission.

This fall's emphasis is a drive to help provide the basics of food and water "in the Lord's name" for people in the famine-ravaged areas of the African Sub-Sahara. The continuing drought stretches 4,000 miles across Africa from Senegal to Ethiopia. For six years the rains have failed, and the Sahara Desert is moving south at the rate of 50 miles a year. The people of the Sahel have long since consumed the seed for this year's crops. An estimated 17 million men, women and children are threatened by starvation and disease.

Dr. Everett S. Graffam, executive vice president for the WRC, indicated that, in such a critical situation, the Thanksgiving offering will provide desperately needed funds to fight this famine. For more information on the special WRC Thanksgiving offering, write to the World Relief Commission, Box 44, Valley Forge, PA 19481.

455 VACATIONS FOR CHRIST

Determined to bring the Word of God to their countrymen, Chinese students have been using their summer vacations to distribute the Scriptures throughout Taiwan. The Bible Society of the Republic of China has sponsored this summer distribution program for the past 11 years, inviting students from Taiwan's colleges and universities to participate. The work of a Bible colporteur is demanding but the measure of their success is the 1,298,410 copies of Scripture 455 students have distributed over those 11 summers.

In May and June 1963 the Bible Society launched its first appeal to students. In response 110 students inquired about the program. Eventually 58 committed themselves to the two-day retreat and training session that preceded actual distribution. At the retreat veteran colporteurs shared their experiences with the students and in dramatized demonstrations taught the students how to handle difficult situations. These two and three-day training retreats, held in Taiwan's churches or theological schools, have inaugurated each summer's program. The Bible Society has invited Chinese church leaders to each retreat to challenge and train the students for the task ahead.

After the training retreat in 1963, the 58 students broke up into 20 teams, who traveled through the towns and roads of Taiwan for 10 days. Though one team found people waiting in three lines to buy Scriptures at one stop on their itinerary, more often teams found people cold and disinterested, pleading many excuses to refuse the Scriptures the students were selling. Sometimes the teams were labeled "gospel-cheaters" because they were selling rather than giving away their Scriptures. Yet, conscious of his commission to evangelize, one student remarked, "No matter how hard the work became, we could expect fruit in due season."

In 1964, 51 students formed the distribution teams for that summer's program. They found house-to-house calls most efficient means of distribution though sometimes they had jarring experiences. Some residents in a U.S. military housing district, for example, slammed the doors in their faces before the students even had a chance to explain their mission. Sometimes, however, Christians would invite them into their homes for a short visit. "It was times like these which gave us the ability to continue despite hardship," commented one student.

Thirty-two students participated in the 1965 program. They chose as their theme that summer Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." Thirty-nine students participated in the 1966 program.

The distribution teams, which the 21 students in the 1967 program formed, were often busy in the markets and business districts. One student, who had just sold some portions of Scripture to five young men, began to tell them the story of the prodigal son. At the end, one young man turned to his friend and said laughingly, "Hey, that's about you but you haven't returned yet!"

Fifty-six students volunteered to become summer colporteurs in 1968. Many of these students attended a conference where some in the audience had walked 10 hours to attend. The students were invited to share stories of their Christian experiences. The stories the students told so moved people at the conference that many in the audience bought Scriptures afterwards. An elderly gentleman asked the students the actual price of the Scriptures the students were selling. When he learned the students were selling their copies of the Scripture for one-third of the actual production cost he insisted on paying the full cost for the Scriptures he himself bought.

Thirty-two students participated in 1969 and 1970 in the distribution program and 42 students in 1971. Mr. Ma Shou-Hua, a government administrator, who was invited to speak at the training retreat in 1971, explained what he saw as the importance of the work to which the students were giving themselves. "The Bible is God's Word which gives us a standard for justice and righteousness. It is through Jesus Christ that we see this standard in action in human life. He enables us to complete people and it is for this reason that we should publish the message everywhere."

One of the speakers at the 1972 training retreat was Mr. P. L. Hsu, who as a college student had participated in the first summer distribution program in 1963. Another speaker that year was Dr. Toshio Sadaie, a Japanese evangelist, at whose meetings throughout Taiwan the student volunteers were given opportunities to distribute. Fifty-seven students took part in the 1972 program. They covered all parts of the country and two teams even visited the Pescadores Islands which lie off the west cost of Taiwan.

Thirty-five students from 17 colleges and universities were volunteers in the 11th summer program in 1973. A special item for distribution that summer was a packet of 12 illustrated selections of Scripture entitled "The Way of Peace." These selections were chosen as guideposts for the path that leads to spiritual peace.

The achievement of these students over the past 11 summers can be seen from the number of Scriptures they shared.

Year	Scriptures Distributed
1963	89,749
1964	69,416
1965	42,962
1966	78,536
1967	38,329
1968	92,826
1969	59,522
1970	85,577
1971	152,500
1972	408,993
1973	180,000

The total for the 11 years is 1,298,410 copies of the Scriptures.

Such is the record of youthful determination that does not give up.

From—American Bible Society Record
with permission

WHO ARE THE ELDERLY?

by Beverly Summy
Benevolent Board

The church has long shown a concern for the aged in the provision of nursing and retirement homes, in the sponsorship of low-moderate housing for the elderly, and in its visitation programs to the elderly and shut-in. Yet the church has often been justly criticized for relating to the elderly through programs which smack of patronizing do-goodism. Margaret Kuhn, a Gray Panther, has pointed out that many of the "Golden Age Clubs" and "Senior Citizen Groups," run by churches and social agencies, though nobly inspired, are often nothing but "glorified playpens" for the elderly who are looked upon as children by their younger guardians. The church has failed to work long and hard enough to insure that no older person will face his or her later years in neglect and economic hardship and it has too often failed to provide a theological and environmental framework for viewing old age as a creative, ongoing cycle of life. As more and more people in our society face early retirement and prolonged old age, it is clear that both church and society will have to find more creative approaches to old age; for the elderly, we are learning, are us! Through this column we will be sharing creative ideas, facts and resources for retirees.

The elderly are a rapidly increasing proportion of the population.

—In 1950 only 12.1 million persons were over the age of 65; today there are over 20 million.
—Between 1960 and 1970 the over 75 segment of the population grew by 37.1% as compared with a 12.5% increase for the population below the age of 60.
—At present those over 65 make up 15% of the eligible voters; within the decade that proportion will increase to 25%.
—25% of our current population of 210 million is now over the age of 60; by the year 2000, they will represent 33% of the population.

The elderly are poor and getting poorer.

—4 out of every 10 persons over 65 are at or below the poverty line and the proportions are increasing.
—Only 2 million of the 7 million elderly who are impoverished are on public assistance.
—In spite of Medicare,, the 1973 out-of-pocket expenses for health care paid by older persons are higher than when Medicare began. Medicare provides less than 50% of all health care costs for the elderly.
—34% of the older person's budget is spent on rent.
—27% of the older person's budget is spent on food.
—A majority of older people own their own homes, yet property taxes have increased almost 40% in the past four years.
—In 1970 the median income for families headed by a person 65 years and older was $5,053, compared with a median of $10,541 for families headed by a younger person. Half of those families with 65+ heads had money incomes of less than $5,053 a year.
—In 1970 the median income for a person 65 and over and living alone was $1,951. Half of these had incomes of less than $1,951.

Elderly women are doubly handicapped.

—There are 4 women to every 3 men in the older population.
—71% of the elderly men are still married, compared with 37% of the women.
—16% of the older men live alone or with nonrelatives, compared with 35% of the older women.
—71% of women over 65 have incomes of less than $2,000 a year. 14% of aged women, compared to 1% of aged men, have no income.
—The middle-aged or older woman who suddenly finds herself widowed or divorced is at a severe disadvantage in the labor market.

Contrary to expectations, most of the elderly are not in institutions.

—69% of the older population own their own homes.
—87% live in their own households.
—4% live in institutions, although 1 out of every 3 persons in mental institutions are elderly.
—70% of the elderly live in urban areas.

The elderly are limited both educationally and in employment.

—About ⅔ of the population over 65 have had no high school education, although this figure is likely to change in time.
—The proportion of older men in the work force has dropped from ⅔ to ⅓ in 1960 and may drop to ¼ by 1975.
—Women over 65 make up 11% of the work force.





Question: What's an ICL?
A. Animal
B. Vegetable
C. Mineral
D. None of the above

Answer: None of the above. ICL is a great on-the-job learning experience for church school teachers and administrators.

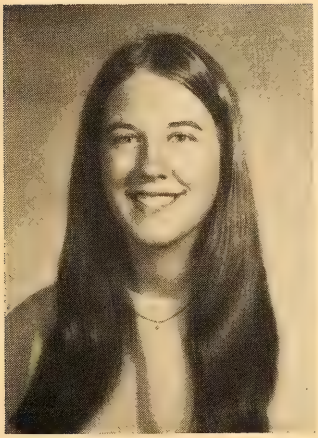
ICL (International Center for Learning) seminars are designed by experienced specialists in Christian education and presented with both large and small churches in mind. Every church school represented at a seminar benefits from the specific plans, skills, and organizational methods taught. Experienced seminar personnel will help participants find ways to make immediate application in their own situations.

The Brethren Church is privileged to have a special ICL seminar scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, August 11 and 12, 1975 as the kick-off event in the Eighty-Seventh General Conference. It is fitting that the Conference theme will be "LET THE CHURCH GROW." A long-standing axiom of church-growth asserts that growing churches have growing church schools ministering to persons of all ages. Especially effective is the church school which offers a sound Biblical approach to the problems of families at every stage of the life cycle.

We believe that Brethren Church schools can and should grow. Such growth is most likely when all the workers understand that both Christian teaching and administrative abilities are gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are most effectively employed when their possessor strives toward perfection in his calling.

What's an ICL? It is an opportunity to better understand the purpose and use of the Gospel Light Church school curriculum. It is a chance to learn new teaching methods by trying them first-hand along with other teachers. It is the first step toward a growing congregation.

CRUSADER REFLECTIONS



Joan McKinney

Being a Crusader, I have to admit, has changed my life. If it hadn't been for Crusading it might have been some what harder for the Lord to get me to Ashland, which seems to be where He wants me right now.

But fortunately, that is not the only thing that Crusading has done for me. It has opened spiritual doors in my life that I never knew were possible. One was the closeness to God which came in the summer of "73 working in The Twelve. It crept upon me as the summer progressed and it wasn't until Conference when I finally had time to sit back a minute and take inventory of myself that I realized how much I had grown in my closeness to Christ. It really set me up for the trials and tests to come following my return to a "normal" life in the fall. That was one of the spiritual highlights of the year.

This summer of '74 was a bit different. I kept telling myself when I was accepted again as a Crusader that it wouldn't be the same, and I was right. (Although maybe in the back of my mind I might have wanted it to be.) Well, I was kind of disappointed in myself for not having the same feelings and enthusiasm that I had had the summer before. By the time "Discovery" came around, I was ready to sit down and actually see how I had grown and it took me awhile to find it. But even in this, the Lord was teaching me that you don't always have the same feelings when you grow. Last year I had grown in a very exciting and out-going way. A way in which people noticed more and it was a spiritual high for me. But without the spiritual high of last year, I had to look deeper to find my growth and I discovered that it was my faith that had grown although my closeness to God was still there also. A much deeper faith that I know will last me a life time and help me much more in my service to God.

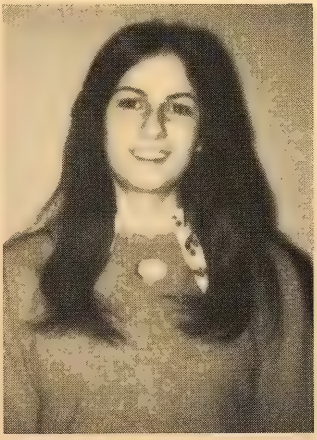
In conclusion I'd like to say Thank you to all those people who made our Crusading possible. To all those special people who opened their hearts, homes and refrigerators to a group of strangers, I say—God's richest blessing be upon you! And to those who are thinking of applying for Crusaders, I say—"trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

Joan McKinney (Tucson)
Freshman at Ashland College

This year as a first year Crusader on ONE Midwest, I experienced the love of Jesus Christ through my teammates for each other. The concept of ONE, derived from Ephesians 4:1-6 and 11-16 talks about being One in the body of Christ. In verses 15 and 16 Paul says: "But speaking the truth in love we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual parts, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

We had the chance this summer to experience that love and that "oneness" in Jesus Christ—that never-ending love that Jesus gives. Crusading gave me a chance to share my love for Jesus Christ with others. I praise the Lord for making us one in Him.

Darlene Swenk (Park Street)
Senior at Ashland High School



Darlene Swenk

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In the fall of 1973 the Board of Christian Education began a new venture of service. We began offering our growing library of sacred contemporary music to you in our churches. At present there are over 50 songbooks and 40 octavos listed in the Music Index with a suppliment coming very soon containing many new selections.

You may order any of our music for review purposes or for actual use. This would enable you to see or use music without ever purchasing it.

These services are available for very reasonable rates for we are not out to make money but only to serve you. For more information and a copy of the Music Index fill out the form below and send to:

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Board of Christian Education
524 College Ave.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

CHURCH _____

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SUMMER 1975?

Maybe, it is too early for you to have definite plans but it is never too early to begin thinking and praying about what wonderful things God has for you. Plans for Summer 1975 are all ready under way in some exciting new areas. If you are interested in receiving application forms and the Summer Crusader policies for either the crusader program or internship, clip out the following and send immediately. We will begin sending the forms and policies out after December 1 with the return deadline being January 31, 1975.

ACT NOW! THINK MUCH! PRAY A LOT!

CLIP AND RETURN TO:

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
524 College Ave.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Please send me application forms and a statement of Summer Crusader Policies.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I hold membership in the Brethren Church of _____

"THE OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT POSITIONS ON PEACE — RECONCILED OR NOT"

(Prepared for the Peace Study Committee of The Central Council of the Brethren Church)
August 1974

Elder W. St. Clair Benshoff

OUR GOD IS CHANGELESS! ". . . the Father of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). The eternal nature of God is found expressed in Exodus 3:14, "I AM THAT I AM." Also, Rev. 16:5, ". . . Lord, which art, and wast, and shall be." "From everlasting to everlasting, thou art God," (Ps. 90:2), is further proof that our God is eternal! Being eternal in nature, then He must be "changeless." God definitely states this in Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, I change not." Thus the immutability of God is established.

This fact is further asserted in relation to the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who is known as "The Word." John 1:1-3; "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." Also, Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever."

The Doctrine of the Trinity teaches that we have, 1. A Father who is God (Rom. 1:7), 2. a Son who is God (Heb. 1:8), and 3. A Holy Spirit who is God (Acts 5:3, 4).

The Doctrine of the Scriptures is shown in II Timothy 3:16: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." The word, "inspired," means literally, "God-breathed." It comes from two Greek words, **theos**—God, and **pnein**—the breath. Scripture, then, came from God, through a strong conscious inbreathing of God into men who were qualified by God to give utterance to truth. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21).

It becomes evident, then, that the Scriptures came from God; that as God is immutable, so must the Word be that He has given. What the Old Testament says, the New Testament must also say. They must be in agreement. Our Lord, in speaking to the multitudes says, (Matt. 5:17, 18): "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill . . . Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

We see God, whose Son is called the "Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6), establishing His "peace position" in Exodus 20:13, "Thou shalt not kill." Since this is what He says in the Old Testament, it is also the position of the New Testament.

Yet, throughout the span of God's dealings with His soul creature—man, as recorded in the Scriptures, we see bloodshed, killing and death. We see the sword as the symbol of God from the door of Eden (Gen. 3:24) ". . . He placed . . . Eden . . . a flaming sword which turned every way,, to keep the way of the tree of life," to the door of the new paradise—the new heavens and earth (Rev. 19:15, 21) "Out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword . . . the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceedeth out of his mouth."

The sword, then, is in the main stream of Scripture (symbolizing conflict, death, shedding of blood—and victory). It is found at the door of Eden, between brothers Cain and Abel, on the battlefield of Palestine, in the words of Jesus in His acceptance as a means of protection (Luke 22: 38), at His death (John 19:34). Also the Sword of the Spirit and the Word of the Lord (Eph. 6:17), and as a flaming, consuming fire at His coming. The sword is there, at times a thing of steel, but always symbolizing spiritual and carnal warfare. The sword, while an instrument of cleavage and death, is also an instrument of victory—in the case of Christ, of final, eternal victory over sin and Satan.

Why the sword running parallel with God's statement, "Thou shalt not kill?" Basic to the peace position of the Testaments is the basic theme of Scripture itself. The Scriptures bleed love and peace from beginning to end. They also reveal the sickening conflict of man against God and man against man. They also reveal to us the basic cause of conflict—God's war with Satan, Satan's subsequent expulsion from heaven, and Satan's continuous effort to destroy God, God's creation and God's creatures. The Scriptures call this conflict, sin, which is, transgression of God's Divine Law.

The peace position of the New Testament, which has been so convincingly stated by so many who hold to the doctrine of non-resistance and non-aggression, supports the Old Testament position of "Thou shalt not kill." We must bear in mind that God was speaking of an ideal situation—when His will and His way would be followed by all men.

Man, being less than willing to follow God in His way, has caused God to deal with man in a way in which the ideal can eventually be realized. In the Old Testament, God ordered men to kill, to destroy (to possess the land—to drive out the enemy) in order to establish a land and a people in which He would be honored in the lives of the people. Realistically, He knew that a godly society in an evil world needed a bulwark against the evil enemies. Scripture reveals that in order for God's people (who did not trust Him fully) to live in a land and have a social order, armies and weapons had to be a part of that social order.

(continued on next page)

The New Testament does not change this pattern, and is thus consistent with the Old Testament.

Jesus recognized this essential part of the social order in which He asked His followers to live, when He said, "Render to Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things which are God's" (Matt. 22:21). Paul, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, wrote, "Let every man be subject unto the higher powers" (Romans 13:1). Verses one through seven of this chapter, and also I Peter 2:13-17, all additional teaching on the place of the Christian in the present social and civil order. Cornelius, an early Gentile Christian (Acts 10), was not asked to become any less a soldier of the state when he accepted Chriist. In his position, he was justified by God (Acts 10:22), and was privileged to receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44).

One can only imagine the anarchy and bloodshed which could result if in so-called Christian nations, all armed protection and power were suddenly to be removed.

(If we are concerned about the anarchy, wars and bloodshed among nations and involving our own nation, perhaps we should concern ourselves more with the reasons why after 2,000 years of the presence of the New Testament peace position in the world, so little lasting good is seen. Perhaps we have been too involved in pushing peace as a way of life when we should have been "pushing" witnessing, evangelism and conversion—changing the heart instead of trying to change the way of life. When the heart is changed, the way of life is changed! We find no mention of a "peace committee" in the book of Acts, but rather a Spirit-fired program of witnessing, evangelism and conversion, which resulted in people finding peace at heart through acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The concerted efforts of those who found peace in Christ, by the lives they lived brought Christian love, peace and civil order to governments and nations, creating an atmosphere in which society could develop to the modern achievements of civilization.)

Participation in the "protection measures" of the state was recognized by God as a means of preserving the society in which the followers of God were to live—both in the Old and the New Testament. We do an injustice to the recognized form of life which God allows, when we accept all the benefits of a society, but refuse to do our part in the preservation of that way of life.

H. H. Halley comments: "Governments are ordained of God. Criminal elements have to be suppressed by force. A judge, a police officer, or a military man, may, in his own heart and life, practice the principles of the Golden Rule, so far as he can as an individual, while as an officer of the law or the government, he must follow strictly the rules of justice. Governments may, in certain respects, and in certain limited measure, follow the Golden Rule. But if force were abandoned, it would mean anarchy, with a free hand for murderers, robbers, rapists and every vile criminal."

Jesus said, "They that take the sword, shall perish with the sword" (Matt. 26:52). He did not say this to establish a way of life, but to recognize the inevitability of carnal strife in the present world order, and its consequences. While Jesus thus put a stop to the carnal conflict out side of Gethsemane on this occasion, He did not make any commandment on our approach to carnal strife at that time. His commandment was merely, "Let's not get into a bloody mess on this occasion, for you know what happens when swords are used." Jesus had more important matters on His mind that night. Soon He was to fufill God's supreme will for Him at Calvary. Discussion of pro's and con's of carnal strife was not on the agenda then.

It is said of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great German Biblical Pacifist, that he finally compromised his non-resistant beliefs by engaging in the famous plot against Hitler's life in World War II. Millard Lind comments: "Why did Bonhoeffer desert his nonresistant opposition to Hitlerism? Because he concluded that in dealing with Hitlerism, nonresistance was ineffective. He became impatient with inactivity and finally decided he must do 'something.'" Lind further comments, "Is the nonresistant way of Jesus after all effective in dealing with the awful evils of our world? May not the Christian at times have to resort to the sword. . ?"

Jesus is right, when in John 18:36 He says, "My kingdom is not of this world." He was speaking of His kingdom as the spiritual, eternal kingdom. We see here the spiritual heights of the kingdom in which Christ will be King of kings, and Lord of lords, as not being a part of this world cosmos.

The present world system is dominated by Satan, using the worldly principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition and pleasure. Jesus told Pilate that if this were the kind of a kingdom of which He was the king, then would His servants fight to keep Him from being defeated and taken captive by the Jews. Jesus indicated that if this were the case, His striving would be just another of the age-long carnal conflicts for power and prestige. This passage does not in any way set the followers of the Lord apart from their Scripturally supported responsibility to civil government, as some may think.

The Old and the New Testament Scriptures, as the eternal Word of God, recognize and are consistent in showing:

1. The need for corporate governments among men and nations,
2. That such governments are allowed of God,
3. That we have a responsibility and a duty to them,
4. The shortcomings of rulers and all people,
5. The everpresent policy of corporate governments in settling problems by force,
6. That we are to let our light so shine that these governments will be more nearly based on accepted Scriptural principles of honoring God, and having respect and love for our fellowmen,
7. That wars and rumors of war will continue as long as this Age continues, and that only when Christ returns to bring peace upon the earth, will wars actually cease to be.

The best procedure whereby we can best uphold and fulfill the Scriptural basis for peace, "Thou shalt not kill," is to become totally engaged in the business for which Christ has us here—witnessing to His saving grace and superior love

for all men. In what we do, our conscience must guide us, but we must be sure that our heart and mind are led by The Word of the Lord through the Holy Spirit, lest we err.

Our God, who is the changeless One, is not unmindful of what is taking place on the earth regarding His people. He is mindful of the carnage and bloodshed which is an everyday occurrance somewhere in the world. Bear in mind that God is working out His great program in which Christ and His faithful shall be triumphant. Christ will be honored and glorified; the Believers will share this honor with Him. In the midst of the spiritual death on every hand, let us continue to proclaim Christ who said, "I am come that they might have LIFE . . . more abundantly" (John 10:10). As we see the confusion resulting from the political, spiritual and moral degradation surrounding us, let us seek to reach men with the Good News of Christ who can bring order out of chaos, and who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

This is the Theme of the Scriptures that God's love seeks those who will come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. When we proclaim this Good News, we are fulfilling the Scriptural commission for our lives. We shall thus see many of this world order who will find Christ, eternal salvation, and the "peace that passeth understanding." Praise God, and let your light shine!

[1] Halley's **Bible Handbook,** 24th Edition, 1965, p. 501.

[2] Lind, Millard, **Christ and War,** 1963, p. 15.

Rev. Benshoff was a member of Central Council Peace Study Committee whose function has been delegated to General Conference Peace Committee.

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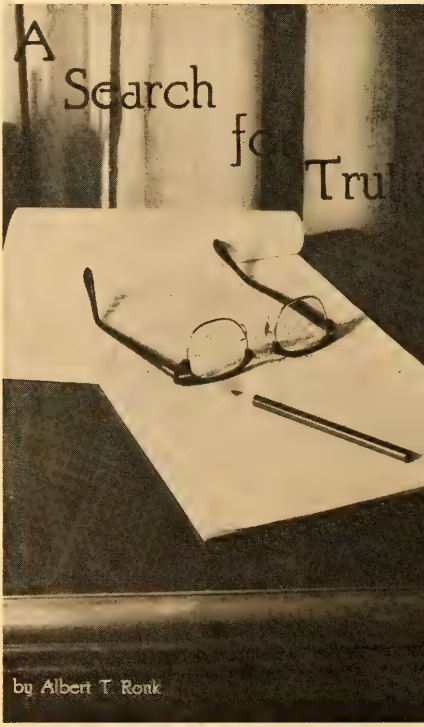
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"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

This book was printed as a memorial volume in a limited edition by the Ronk family and the Book and Pamphlet Commission. It is available at the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstores in Ashland, Ohio and Plymouth, Indiana.

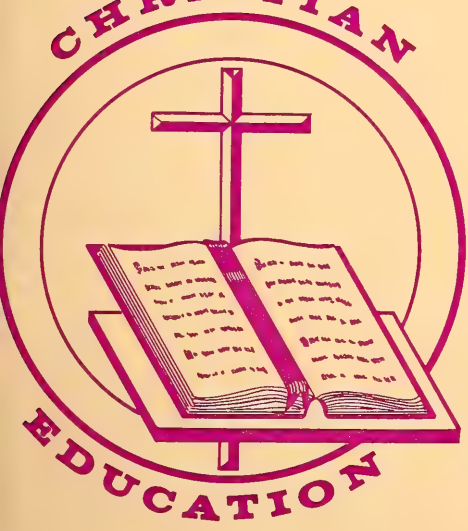
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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS



The Brethren's Home of Indiana, Inc. has just completed arrangements for the issuing of bonds totaling $800,000.00. These bonds should be on the market by the time of this printing. Brethren will be given the first opportunity to purchase them.

This first bond issue well be used to pay present construction loan monies, construction of ten apartments, expanded kitchen and storage areas added smoke detection and fire protection for the present health care unit, parking, landscaping and grounds improvement.

Two of the new apartments will be used as models to assist us in selling apartments to be built with monies from the second bond issue. When 50% of the apartments are committed, the second issue will be sold. Currently we have over 50 prospects for the next building which will have approximately 67 apartments. As sales continue we will construct more apartments. Brethren should take note of this expanding program and avail themselves of the opportunities presented in the bond issuance.

With the expanding of the retirement village—now called "BRETHREN VILLAGE"—the Board of Directors has named Mrs. Rosemary Eddy as Executive Administrator. Mr. Gene Geaslen is Administrator of the Health Care Unit.

By the Way

HOW GOD COMPLIMENTS US

Recently we ran an article on the editorial page pertaining to one starting each day out with confidence. In the foreword for that particular article it was mentioned that we all at one time or another have a tendency to let the problems of yesterday and the ones that are sure to pop up today sort of get the best of us.

There may be times when the load of responsibilities seems so great that one may have the idea that someone forgot to latch the tail gate of the dumptruck bed and it all spilled out in our front yard, so to speak.

I can recall a few times when my heart and my head were engaged in a terrific debate as to whether it was time to "Throw in the towel" and in that particular morning's mail a personal note or letter from a former editor or some dear friend just wished to say hello and offer a word of encouragement or appreciation. These are the kind of letters that must be post-marked in Heaven as they are the ones which put us on the Mezzanine floor of "Cloud Nine" again for a time. These are the times which are comparable to the little lesson in spiritual efficiency of Roy L. Smith about the way God compliments us.

A small boy was complaining to his mother about the load she was expecting him to carry. He seemed to feel very much imposed upon.

"But that is a compliment on your size and strength," she said. "Know what a big boy you are and how capable you are. If you were only a little fellow I would give you a small load. But because you are such a strong lad I have given you a load to match."

Something in the tone of her voice, as well as the words she spoke, sank deep into the boy's mind. Without another word he shouldered the load and made off with it, and it seemed like an altogether different burden when he thought of it as his mother's compliment.

The Apostle Paul had something of the same idea in mind when he said, in writing to the Corinthians, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able." This means that any man can measure God's confidence in him by the pressure of the temptations that befall him.

On another occasion the Apostle spoke about "rejoicing in tribulations," and such rejoicing becomes very much easier when we think of our difficulties as an index of God's confidence in our abilities.

A youth was reporting his experience at the office one evening at the dinner table. He was telling about the load of work the boss had laid on his desk that morning. "Isn't that wonderful!" his mother exclaimed. "He must have a lot of confidence in you or he would not trust you with so much work for the company."

A quiet-mannered business man was confiding in his friend some of the problems that were making life a burden for him. "But I guess that is the reason God led me into this job," he said, "He must have needed a man about my size to handle the responsibility of the Kingdom of Heaven in that office." And with that he turned to his desk again and to his work, unafraid and unterrified.

If it be true that God never allows a greater temptation to come to us than we are able to master, then it should become a matter of pride with us that God shall not be disappointed in us. A temptation puts us on our honor; a burden becomes a challenge; a difficulty is an invitation to discover the dividend that is lurking in its depths.

The man who can think of his difficulties as divine compliments is going to approach his task with an entirely different mind. He will have confidence for he will know he cannot be beaten; he will enjoy the experience because he will sense the presence and good will of God and his load.

"This is my chance to prove to the community that all I have been preaching to my people is true in my own case. What a chance!" And the preacher who received word late Saturday night of the death of his son went into his pulpit on Sunday morning and preached as he had never preached before. Never was his town so impressed with a sermon as on that occasion when he seized upon a heartbreak and mastered it in the name and for the sake of his Lord.

"Those boys are my opportunity," said a Sunday school teacher in the midst of her distraction. The twelve year-olds were an unruly lot, and it called for all her ingenuity and Christian consecration if she was to suceed as their teacher. "I offered myself to God, and this is where he has stationed me. He must have thought I could do it, and with his help I will." And she did, magnificently.

To look into the face of our greatest temptation, and say, "God and I together are bigger than anything that can befall me," is to live on top of life and that is exactly where a Christian is expected to live at all times. Did not the great Apostle say, "Thanks be unto God who always giveth us the victory?"

"LITTLE LESSONS IN SPIRITUAL EFFICIENCY" by Roy L. Smith are used by permission of The United Methodist Publishing House.

MISSIONARY NEWS

MISSIONARY TECHNICIAN — ANSWER TO PRAYER

The following report by Technical Missionary Bill Winters tells not only of one phase of the work of the Evangelical Audio Visual Center (CAVEA) where Bill works and which the Brethren Church helps support, but also of another occasion where the Holy Spirit has directed the Lord's people to a particular place at a specific time as an answer to prayer. Continue to remember our missionaries in prayer that they are always sensitive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

On Sunday, September 22 I received a long distance call from Jorge Kramer. He was in the northern part of Argentina in the city of Resistencia, in the providence of Chaco. Mr. Kramer is the operator of CAVEA's mobile evangelistic unit. It seems that he had had difficulty with the projector and both the main sound system and the back-up sound system failed. So it had been necessary to cancel the remainder of the meetings in that city. He was extremely worried because starting on Tuesday, September 24 he was to provide equipment for a series of 3 one week crusades in the 3 largest cities in the province of Misiones. The crusades were under the auspicies of the Billy Graham Association with evangelist "Hermano Pablo" (Brother Paul Finkenbinder).



Technician Bill Winter on amateur radio antenna tower on top of the headquarters building of the Brethren Church in Argentina.

I told Brother Kramer that I could not get away until late Monday night or Tuesday morning as Sharon was away in Soldini at the Women's Conference and would not be back until late Monday afternoon and I was alone with the children.

Mr. Stacey, director of CAVEA, had been away over the weekend so Monday morning I called him and explained the situation and he told me to try to get a seat on the 7:45 a.m. Tuesday plane. I called David Palaci and asked him to try to get me a seat. Then I called the Billy Graham Association office to consult with them on the situation. We decided that I should take along a 16mm movie projector and a spare public address amplifier. As these items are quite heavy we decided that with myself and the evangelistic team there would be five of us, therefore we could pool our luggage and check in at the airport together. That way we would not need to pay excess baggage on the projector.

We met at 7:00 A.M. at the airpark airport here in Buenos Aires in 40 degree weather, on a nasty rainy morning. The plane left shortly before 8:00 A.M. When we arrived in Posadas, Misiones (population 105,000) 1½ hour later we were hit with a 95 degree temperature, what a shock! The shock was eased by a crowd of about 100 of the Christians of the city who had come to the airport to greet the well known (in Latin America) evangelist "Hermano Pablo." We arrived in the city shortly and I got to work immediately on the equipment on board the mobile unit. Several of the problems were quickly solved but others would take much more time and work. Late that afternoon we went to set up at the municipal amphitheater. We had been informed that a 100 watt system had been installed in the amphitheater and the equipment on the mobile unit would be used for publicity in the street. When we arrived I was met by Mr. Dan Nuesch (director of the Argentine office of the Billy Graham Association) who was very worried about the amphitheater sound system. He asked me to check out the system and make suggestions for improvements for the following day. I checked it out, it was so bad I just turned it off. Hermano Pablo, the evangelist had brought along a battery operated portable system with his luggage to be used at luncheons, schools, etc. so that was set up and used the first night.

First night attendance was approximately 1500 people (seating capacity approximately 3000) with about 30 people responding to the invitation to receive Christ (follow-up by the local churches will be done to assist these people in spiritual growth).

The next day I stopped the repair work on the mobile unit and worked with the local people on the amphitheater sound system. To simplify the job we relocated all the speakers and put them in a line across the front of the platform with one trumpet type speaker covering each sector of the seating area. We connected the 40 watt amplifier which I had brought along in my suitcase, and two high quality microphones from the mobile unit. With this setup along with the excellent design and shape of the amphitheater, the sound was perfect. After the service that evening everyone on the team was praising the Lord that the mobile unit had broken down and I was sent to the city of Posadas to solve the sound problem in the amphitheater.

That night the attendance was down due to the weather. It had turned cold and had been a drizzily day. There were 1000 to 1200 in attendance with 20 who responded to the invitation.

Thursday morning I estimated that I should be finished with the necessary repairs by Friday afternoon. I was hoping to leave Friday afternoon or Saturday morning in order to be home Saturday morning for Heidi's birthday. So I went to one airline office, they were booked up solid until the following Wednesday. So I went to the other Airline and they had seats available for Saturday at 5:30 P.M. I would get home at about 9:00 P.M. as this plane made several stops. I thought, "Well at least I will get home Saturday evening even if it is late." (Not knowing that the Lord still had something for me to do in Posadas.)

Thursday night again presented bad weather and low attendance but a greater response to the invitation. God seemed to be sending those who had been prepared by the Holy Spirit to receive the Gospel.

Friday morning I repaired a 16mm Bell & Howell projector for one of the churches and Friday afternoon helped to properly lay out the sound system in another church. Later that afternoon I was asked to put together a sound system in a car to be driven around the city to announce the crusade. Various churches brought equipment which I put together and installed in the car.

It was our custom to meet each day at 11:00 A.M. for a prayer meeting. This Friday morning I was called out of the prayer meeting and introduced to the Pastor of one of the local churches. He had heard that I was there, and wanted to know if I could come and check their organ which was not working. I told him that I was free Saturday morning as I had not been able to get an airline ticket until Saturday afternoon. I explained that most likely I would not be able to do anything as I did not have with me the necessary test instruments and parts, but I was quite willing to take a look at the organ.

Friday was a beautiful clear day and that night approximately 2000 were in attendance at the crusade. More than 40 responded to the invitation.

Saturday morning I went to see the organ. It seemed that the problem was in the power amplifier chassis which I could remove and bring with me to Buenos Aires where I have the necessary instruments and parts available. The wife of the pastor told me that she had been praying every morning at breakfast for the past 3 years (it had broken down 3 years ago) that the Lord would send the right person to repair the organ. In that moment I understood why I was not able to get passage for the previous day. The Lord had prevented my leaving until Saturday evening so that I would have the necessary time to honor the prayers of these people.

Saturday evening I arrived at 9:00 P.M. in time for a special meeting at the church to honor those whose birthdays were in September.

It was a rich experience, especially to experience the Lord's direct leading and to be the physical answer to another person's prayers.

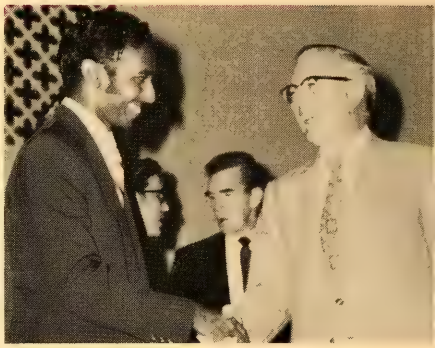
K. VIJAYA KUMAR ORDINATION

On August 17, 1974 in Memorial Chapel at Ashland College following the Missionary Board inspirational program of General Conference, missionary candidate K. Vijaya Kumar was ordained into the Brethren ministry.

Rev. Kumar was born on July 11, 1944 in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, India of Christian parents and attended a Christian elementary school. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in Botany, Zoology and Chemistry from the Government Arts College in Rajahmundry; a Bachelor of Law and Master of Arts with major in social work from Andhra University in Visakapatnum; and a Master of Theology from Ashland Theological Seminary.

Rev. Kumar left law practice when he felt the call to enter the full time ministry and came to the United States in August, 1971 to study at Ashland Theological Seminary. During the three years of study at the seminary he has been supported by a scholarship from the Loree Brethren Church, Indiana through the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church. He graduated from the seminary in the spring of this year.

Presently serving a period of internship under Rev. Donald Rowser in the New Lebanon Brethren Church, Rev. Vijaya Kumar will be returning to India in December, 1974 as a national missionary with the Brethren Mission in that country. He will be working with his brother, Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar and will be responsible for opening a new area for the Brethren Mission in the city of Visakapatnum.



Rev. K. Vijaya Kumar shakes hands with Mr. Tom Stoffer, First Vice President of the Missionary Board following Rev. Kumar's ordination.

The prayers of all of the Brethren are requested for this young man as he returns in a new capacity to a work he assisted with in its beginning stages. May God bless you Vijaya as you rejoin the Brethren in India in the work to which the Lord has called you.

GOD'S LEADING TOWARD MISSIONARY SERVICE IN MALAYSIA

by David Loi

During my first three years of training at the Ashland Theological Seminary, there were quite a few of the Brethren students persuading me to join the Brethren Church and work as a missionary in Malaysia. I always expressed my opinion that I rather would stay with the Methodist Church in Malaysia unless God wanted me to change denominations.

In November, 1973, I had the feeling of changing so when I went to England to spend Christmas vacation with my fiance, Jenny, I told her about my feeling. We prayed about this matter and on the other hand, we started seeking information by writing to several denominations. They were: The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, Church of the Nazarene, Church of God of Prophecy, Free Methodist Church, The Grace Brethren Church, The Brethren Church. The only door opened to me was The Brethren Church. I had two interviews with Reverend Virgil Ingraham, General Secretary of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church. At that time we were seeking for God's leading.

It happened that on May 28, when I applied to the immigration authorities for an extension of temporary stay in the United States, I was denied permission because I had accepted employment without the permission from the immigration office. I was ordered to leave the country not later than June 15. Both Virgil Ingraham and Dr. Joseph R. Shultz intervened to assist me with this problem.

Again I had another two interviews with Virgil Ingraham in early summer this year. On June 15, when I went to speak at the First Brethren Church, South Bend, Indiana, both Pastor Bennett and Mr. Ivan Crofoot, Chairman of the Missionary Committee, asked me about my plan after the completion of seminary training. They wondered if I had been thinking of joining The Brethren Church to work as a missionary in Malaysia. I told them my intention regarding this matter and also shared



David and Jenny Loi

with them concerning my previous interviews with Mr. Ingraham. They began to organize the following churches to support the Malaysia mission: South Bend, Elkhart, North Liberty, Nappanee, Teegarden, Jefferson, Ardmore, County Line and Winding Waters all of Indiana and Maurertown, Virginia church.

Then Virgil Ingraham arranged for me to meet the Missionary Board during their annual General Conference sessions in Ashland. I was then accepted as a missionary candidate. On August 17th at General Conference, my fiance and I were consecrated to God for preaching the Gospel.

On September 12, Jenny and I were united in marriage. We were honored to have Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Clayton to give Jenny away during the ceremony, Reverend and Mrs. Virgil Ingraham represented my family and Dr. Joseph Shultz conducted our wedding ceremony.

On September 22 at 2:30 P.M. Jenny and I were baptized by Reverend Keith Bennett followed by confirmation. Reverend Virgil Ingraham received us into the Brethren denomination.

We will be going back to Sibu, Malaysia (our home town) on September 30 for three weeks. Then we will go to Penang, Malaysia to start the missionary work by the end of October. We would like you to remember us in your prayers for this new difficult task.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

by Rev. William Walk

September 20, 1974, a day that will live in infamy. At least in our minds and lives. This was the day we pulled out from Smithville, Ohio, for the long journey to Essexville, Michigan, to begin our term of training under **Missionary Internship.**

We had just concluded a good pastorate of five years with the good Brethren at Gratis, Ohio, and this was the first hurdle to cross before we could start with **Missionary Internship.** We really grew to love the people there and it was difficult to leave, but we felt the Lord calling us into missionary service, and He promised to give us the strength to cross such hurdles.

Missionary Internship is a training organization which exists to develop and orient Christian men and women for cross cultural service, and to apply its resources to the missionary task of the church. It is designed to help missionary candidates better prepare themselves to serve Jesus Christ in another culture, and to more effectively communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ across cultural lines.

Missionary Internship is located on a twenty six acre campus on the western edge of Farmington, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit). It is a very attractive and functional campus with (an administrative) building (which houses the offices of **Missionary Internship** and also the Far Eastern Gospel Crusades mission), a dining hall (which also includes a library and the nursery and toddler facilities) a motel for married students, a dormitory for unmarried students, recreation areas, a beautiful wooded area, and homes for most of the staff members.

The interns (that's what we are called) are divided into three groups, and each group spends one week per month on the campus. The course of study consists of classes, group inter-action, consultation with your personal advisor, and personal study projects. The remaining three weeks per month are spent serving in a church working with a pastor.

The church to which we have been assigned is the Essexville Baptist Community Church. Essexville is a suburb of Bay City, on the Saginaw Bay. We are about twenty five miles from Saginaw. The church has an average morning worship attendance of about 200. Our major responsibilities here will be leading the youth program, working in the Christian Education and Music Departments, and training in personal evangelism. The local Pastor also functions as an advisor. In return for our services to the church they provide us with furnished living quarters and a nominal living allowance.

We are excited about the program, especially now that we have completed the orientation program, and we feel the Lord has exciting things to accomplish this coming year. We solicit your prayers and support while we are here and as we continue to serve our Lord. If you are ever in this area we would love to have you stop in and visit. Our address is **1003 Main, Essexville, Michigan 48732.** We would appreciate hearing from you and knowing that you are praying. Let's pray together for great things for Christ.

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It was devised to teach the following:

(1) Names of the New Testament "letters."
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(3) Co-authorship of several of Paul's letters.
(4) Sequence in the New Testament of the letters from Paul.
(5) Pronounciation of the names of the New Testament letters.
(6) Authorship of the New Testament letters.
(7) Receivers of the New Testament letters.

MAILOPOLY is ideal for use on Sunday mornings, evening youth groups, weekday programs, and in the home. Parents are encouraged to buy one for their own children's spiritual nurture and Biblical training.

The rules include directions for both simple and complex versions, so that it has the greatest possible use with various age groups. The game is most effective from junior age to adult, but can be used with younger children if a teacher assists in pronouncing the names.

Each game package includes:

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—21 New Testament "letters" (labeled index cards),
—a set of rules,
—and a page of Teaching Values, Guides for Use, and Pronunciation List.

All you need to supply is **one die** (available from a hobby shop or toy store; or borrow one from another game you have; or use a "spinner" from another game) and **playing pieces** (buttons or coins will do). These are not included in the MAILOPOLY Kit in an attempt to reduce the initial cost and facilitate packaging and mailing. You may want to cover the playing surface with clear contact paper and then tape the edges (with cloth tape) to a piece of stiff cardboard or wood cut to size. This will assure it of longer life.

Your purchase of MAILOPOLY provides you with a valuable teaching tool with a variety of uses. And, at the same time, you are continuing to have an important part in the Brethren House ministry.

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The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR DECEMBER

Some "I Wills" For The New Year

Regarding sin and transgressions:

"For **I will** declare mine iniquity; **I will** be sorry for my sins." (Psalm 38:18)

"I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, **I will** confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah" (Psalm 32:5)

Regarding salvation:

I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." (Psalms 116:13)

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet **I will** rejoice in the Lord, **I will** joy in the God of my salvation." (Habakkuk 3:17, 18)

Regarding praise to God:

"I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; **I will** show forth all Thy marvelous works." (Psalm 9:1)

"I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth." (Psalm 34:1)

"I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever; with my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations." (Psalm 89:1)

Regarding prayer:

"I will pray with the spirit, and **I will** pray with the understanding also. . . ." (1 Corinthians 14:15)

"I will pray for you unto the Lord." (1 Samuel 7:5)

Regarding one's walk:

"Teach me Thy way, O Lord: **I will** walk in Thy truth. . . ." (Psalm 26:11)

"But as for me, **I will** walk in mine integrity. . . ." (Psalm 26:11)

"I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living." (Psalm 116:9)

Regarding meditation:

"I will meditate in Thy precepts, and have respect unto Thy ways." (Psalm 119:15)

"I will meditate also of all Thy work, and talk of Thy doings." (Psalm 77:12)

Regarding home and missionary endeavor:

"I will go in the strength of the Lord God: **I will** make mention of Thy righteousness, even of Thine only." (Psalm 71:16)

Regarding sacrificial service:

"And **I will** very gladly spend and be spent for you: though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." (2 Corinthians 12:15)

There is a satisfaction in knowing that these **"I wills"** are in perfect accord with the will of Him to whom we say: "Thy will, not mine, be done!"

SISTERHOOD

SENIOR SISTERHOOD

DECEMBER

Mrs. Patricia Richey

TO KNOW HIM

Down With Establishment!

Section 3 Hebrews 10:1-25

You may be wondering why I have chosen such a radical statement for the title of your worship study today, when I might have chosen one about shepherds, angels, stars, and babies for a Christmas theme. Much as it may surprise you, my purpose in choosing this title today is because I am trying to convey to you a message that comes to me from the scriptures I have chosen to assist us in coming to know Christ, who he really is and what he really has accomplished in his life here on earth.

Next you may be wondering how any of you are going to make head and tails out of the scriptures that have been chosen, especially if you have looked at them before the meeting today. Well, as a matter of fact, it is not going to be especially easy to do, but if you are willing to work along with me, I feel that God will definitely open our understanding enough to get some real good out of His Word. So let's begin right now with the following prayer. As your leader reads this prayer make it your own by praying along with me silently.

Dear Holy Spirit,
Thank you for being here today with me. I know that you are the One who will assist me in understanding the Bible today as I study it along with these other girls who are here. You know my need to understand your Word and you know my heart's needs. Thank you for being able to meet these needs today.
In Jesus Name,
Amen.

(Leader's Note: If it is possible, please have the group around a table today. If there is no table, then in a circular group so that you can face all the other girls. Try to have at least one Bible for each two girls. You will be asking the questions given below. Ask the girls to read the verses that are given with the question being asked. Then give all the girls an opportunity to enter into answering the questions. If the answers are confusing, ask several girls to give their answers to the same question. Keep the discussion close to the subject, don't let one person answer all the questions, nor let them dominate the discussion. Your patroness will be a good source person to assist you in getting a clear meaning from the scriptures you will be studying today.)

*Hebrews 10:1-10

1. In what three ways (verses 1, 2, 4) did the sacrifices of the Old Testament tabernacle prove inadequate? What reasons are given for the failures of the law and its animal sacrifices?
2. What does Christ say about his coming into this world (verses 5-7)?
3. What does God really want from us?

(Leader's Note: Give these scriptures to several girls to look up at the same time, then ask for answers to the above question from each one.) Psalm 40:6-8; I Samuel 15:22; Psalm 51:16, 17; Hosea 6:6; Micah 6:6-8

4. What has Christ done (verse 9b)?
5. What was the will of God (verse 7a)?
6. What did Christ accomplish through his body (verses 5, 10)?

Hebrews 10:11-18

7. Find as many differences as you can between the Old Testament priests and Christ (verses 11-18).

8. Why are these differences important to us (verses 11-18)??

9. Why doesn't the sacrifice that Jesus made need to be repeated (verses 10, 12, 14)?

Hebrews 10:19-25

10. What is to be the Christian's relationship to God (verses 19-22)?

11. What is stated about the Christian's demonstration of faith to the world (verse 23)?

12. What is the Christian's responsibility to his fellow Christians (verses 24, 25)?

13. How do we now have access to God (verses 19-22)?

14. How should this access affect our daily lives (verses 19-22)?

15. In verses 24, 25 what reasons are given for going to church and to other Christian meetings?

To what extent are these purposes accomplished in your church gatherings?

16. What coming event gives urgency to the directions given in verses 24, 25?

Well, if you have stuck with me clear to the end of this study, as I hope you have, I am sure you will be tremendously blessed with the knowledge that you have gained. May I say one thing, I do not expect **all** of this to be absolutely clear and understandable to you at this time. Perhaps the scripture that says "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." seems to express what I am saying. As you grow with Christ, His Word grows in your heart.

I am praying that the Christ of CHRISTmas lives in your heart this day. If He does not, invite Him in right now. All the promises you have studied this day can be yours just for asking.

Signed, Pat

*Study questions for Hebrews 10:1-25 are from the HEBREWS study guide written by Marilyn Kunz and Catherine Schell, Tyndale House Publishers, c 1967, reprined by permission.

**I Corinthians 13:12

JUNIOR SISTERHOOD
DECEMBER

Mrs. Pauline Benshoff

CHRISTMASTIME IS REMEMBERING TIME



Christmastime is remembering time. We remember Jesus' birth in a special way—by special services and special songs, and by special gifts—to Jesus and to others. Perhaps you are thinking, "I would have taken the gold as my gift to Jesus." You cannot be one of the Wise-men, but you can offer gifts to Jesus Christ. Let's name a few. The first gift we can bring is LOVE, by telling others of Jesus we share His love and then our love for Him begins to grow. Secondly, we have the gift of FAITH which we show in our daily Christian living. Jesus is so trustworthy, that we can put our faith in Him. He answers our prayers, He guides us everyday and He promises a heavenly home to those who live faithfully for Him. The third gift is OURSELVES. When we give our lives to Jesus Christ, this means our talk, our actions, our thinking, our playing and our working. Everything is done with the thought that we belong to Jesus and live only to please and serve Him. This is why Jesus came, to find you, each one, and save you for Himself, so you could be a part of His family.

Do you feel you have done all you can to improve yourself? Today we are having shortages of everything and we are asked to be as saving as we can. Did it occur to you that there is something

that is still plentiful, and yet we bypass it every time? That is the love of Christ and His love for everyone. He doesn't want any of us to perish and so we should be telling everyone the Good News. Our Christian lives become very dull when we are keeping it all to ourselves. Tell it out! Our Christian experience should be one of continuous song of Joy in praise for all He (Jesus) has done for us. Yes, Christmas is a time of remembering. A time to remember what He did for us. He come to die to give His life for you and me.

Christmas carols have come to occupy a large place in our hearts at this time of the year. And how they came to be written is of historical interest, but more important are the Scriptures that inspired the writers. We want to combine carols with some visual scenes (filmstrip) for a part of our devotions this month. (Perhaps the leader or patroness could procure a filmstrip that could be used to be shown as we read the WORD and sing the Carols.)

As the filmstrip shows a picture of Bethlehem, read together from your Bible, Luke 2:1-5. Now let's sing O Little Town of Bethlehem. After singing the carol, have another person tell the following history of this carol.

O Little Town of Bethlehem is one of the truly American carols that we sing today. It was written by Phillip Brooks almost a hundred years ago. This New England Pastor had been in the Holy Land at Christmas time and had ridden to Bethlehem in the dark of the night. He had seen the silent fields where under the stars, the Shepherds watched their flocks that first Christmas night, and recalling those scenes later wrote the words down and gave them to his Church organist to set them to music. Lewis Redner worked diligently on a tune and finally came up with the tune we love to sing yet today. Redner gave this tune as a gift to the children to sing every Christmas, but it was really a gift to the whole world.

For the setting for our next carol, let's read Luke 2:6, 7. We will now sing **"Away in a Manger."** The words of this Carol have been set to two or three different tunes, but we will sing the most familiar one, the one referred to as "Luther's Cradle Hymn."

The story about how this carol came to be written is one that tells why many hymns are written. Martin Luther, the leader of the Reformation, in his ministry realized the need of the people to express their praise and worship to God themselves, so when he wrote "Away in a Manger," he wrote it as though this was what he would sing to his own children.

Turn again to the scriptures and read in Luke 2:8-14. After the reading, sing **While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks.** You will need to sing it all to get the whole account.

Our hymn books carry two references to this scripture. The First Noel and While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks. However, The First Noel doesn't follow the gospel account accurately. It says the shepherds saw the star, but according to the scripture, the angel appeared to the shepherds and the wise men saw the star. Not too much is written about While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, but we do know this carol was written by Nahum Tate and George F. Handel provided the musical score. As you sang it, it is our wish that you related the words and their meaning to the Gospel account, and noticed how expressive of the scriptural account they are.

The last of our Carol study tonight is the very familiar, and probably most loved of all the carols **Silent Night, Holy Night.** Joseph Mohr, an Austrian, wrote the words, and the day before Christmas in 1818 gave this poem to Franz Gruber, an organist and schoolmaster. That evening Mr. Gruber gave the poem back to Joseph complete with the melody for two solo voices, guitar and chorus. You may ask, why was a guitar used, especially when Gruber was a organist? There was a good reason for it. Some mice had damaged the organ so that it couldn't be used on Christmas eve when the carol was first sung. But no matter how it started, it is a favorite down to this day and has been translated in most of the languages of the world. Let's sing it softly together.

CONVERSATIONAL PRAYER TIME after which you might conduct your business meeting.

In conversation with several patronesses and Sisterhood girls, they wanted me to suggest some things to do along with the program. I don't know any magic things, but maybe some ideas coming from someone else will give us a shot in the arm. So here goes! Maybe you could make a Christmas Card Holder for your shut-ins. Oh, how they would enjoy seeing those cards up where they get a panoramic view of them. It is very simple to do. Cut colored burlap into 24 by 55 inch pieces. Across the top of the burlap turn down about a 2-inch edge and stitch, leaving room to insert a 26 inch dowel for hanging purposes. Tie cording to ends of dowel. Fringe the bottom about 3 inches. Now make three pockets by folding the burlap up. Make each pocket about 3 inches deep. When you have folded the burlap to the desired place, pin the edges to held the pockets in place until you can stitch them. After all the pockets have been pinned, stitch around the entire edge of the burlap with bright-colored yarn. Use felt to make your designs on the top part, highlighting certain points with beads, sequins, glitter, buttons, or anything else that will be attractive. Old Christmas cards to cut up will offer many beautiful ideas such as candles, shepherd silhouettes, Christmas trees, Wisemen, Nativity scenes, carolers etc. Be creative and give something you made specially for someone else this year. Let me know if the idea made someone happy and was enjoyable to you. Let's share what Christmas really means, by giving a little more of ourselves than we've done before. Jesus did so much for us! How can we do less? Have a wonderful, spiritual, loving Christmas!

Next month look for our list of monthly studies and themes to carry out for the rest of the year. WRITE to me and let me know your wishes and needs. I have been much in prayer that God will lead me to touch upon the things that will prove most helpful to you and guide you into a more fruitful Christian walk. These are difficult days and require all the steadfastness we can muster up. Keep praying, God is still there and if you feel far away, guess who moved? Merry Christmas! Give Love!

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

ASHLAND, Ohio—When the Ashland College Choir departs on its third European Tour over spring break they will take many friends, parents, AC students and faculty with them. This has been a tradition in past tours and will continue next spring from March 6-28.

Students and friends accompanying the choir will have full opportunity to visit and see places of cultural significance representing medieval, renaissance, baroque and classic Europe. In addition they will cross the iron curtain into Czechoslovakia for a two-day visit in the great city of Prague, travel thru the famed St. Gotthard and Brenner passes in the Alps, ride the canals of Venice, and have many more of Europe's unique experiences.

The full itinerary will include France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg, and the following major cities: Paris, Lucerne, Milan, Rome, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck, Munich, Prague, and Rothenburg at a cost of $845 to $865 which includes all transportation (Ashland to Ashland), lodging (double) in tourist class hotels, breakfast and dinner daily, and all supplemental costs for services, taxes, etc.

There is room now only for an additional 18 persons. If interested, contact Calvin Rogers, Arts-Humanities Building, Room 210 or phone 289-4085 as soon as possible.

OPEN LETTER TO THE BRETHREN

ASHLAND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Ashland College Ashland, Ohio 44805

Office Of Vice-President For the Seminary

Dear Brethren:

THE NEW SEMINARY YEAR HAS BEGUN IN GREAT SPIRIT! Both Faculty and students are highly motivated to do the best job possible in teaching and learning the Gospel and the ministry of it. Following is the enrollment statistics:

Master of Divinity	*100*
Master of Arts in Religion	*13*
Clinical	*19*
Doctor of Ministry	*9*
Cleveland Center	*10*
	151

Of the regular Master of Divinity students, there are twenty-five Brethren students.

We also baptized a young Seminary couple, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Payne, into the Brethren Church. They are looking forward to serving in the Brethren ministry. (Rev. Jimmie Geaslen has also used the Seminary baptistry recently in baptizing college students who have confessed the Lord).

May the Brethren Church grasp the spirit of training many men for the Gospel ministry, including more men for the Brethren ministry. The Holy Spirit is moving in marvelous ways. May He use us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Joseph R. Shultz, Vice-President
Ashland College Seminary



LOOKING FORWARD!

We stand on the threshold of a new and promising era for The Brethren Church! Just take a quick look around. The climate is right for church growth. We have more and better resources available than ever before. We have a growing corps of vigorous, well-trained pastors; our lay people represent a fantastically talented pool of human resources; our youth are showing positive commitment to the church. The potential for dynamic movement exists within the church . . . but God's people must have the vision and faith to see what can be done, the wisdom to discern His goals, and the boldness to claim His power in achieving them.

And, while we must remember who we are and the original purposes of our organization, we must, at the same time forge ahead. Church schools must progress. Teaching methods and materials must be as good as the best employed in the public schools. Why should we expect children and youth to be "turned-on" in drab underequipped classrooms by a poorly prepared teacher? All week they are exposed to the best tax-payers' money can buy in terms of equipment and personnel preparation.

It is true (thank heaven!) that Christian teaching has a different dimension in that God's own Spirit is the teacher, even He operates most effectively through a well prepared person. Growing churches take the teaching ministry seriously. Persons of every age—from the nursery to the oldest adult—need and will respond to the message of God's Word if it is presented in a relevant manner. Jesus said to Peter:

> 'Simon son of John do you love me more than all else?' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered, 'you know that I love you.' 'Then feed my lambs,' he said. A second time he asked, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you." 'Then tend my sheep.' A third time he said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me? Lord,' he said, 'you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.' (John 21:15-17 NEB)

Dynamic churches are in the "feed business!"

Indeed the idea of faithful feeding is a fascinating one. With appropriate feeding infant organisms find satisfaction and happiness as well as the strength to try an ever-increasing number of new activities. Good nutrition supplies the organism with the "stuff" for growth and development toward maturity. Proper feeding tends to minimize illness and free the organism from conflict.

When applied to the church and its educational program, we observe that the church whose "menu" consistently offers to satisfy the nutritional needs of its "customers" often finds its parking lot crowded.

This analogy, like all others, has its limitations. Many have survived for years with no apparent appetite for the spiritual food of which we speak. But "faith is awakened by the message, and the message that awakens it comes through the word of Christ (Romans 10:17 NEB)." It is our privilege to "Awaken" the faith of some and to facilitate the nourishment of those already awakened.

There is work to be done. All of us need to "stir up" our gifts as we take our place alongside our fellow volunteers in a forward-moving church. Our church schools, which have declined by nearly 25% since 1966 can begin to grow again—indeed they must. As a first step in the resurgence of our church school outreach, and ICL Seminar for teacher training has been planned for August 1975, new training materials are being produced, and Christian education workshops are planned.

The journey ahead will be difficult but can and will move forward if we all pull together trusting the future to God. We must go . . . awakening new disciples . . . offering them a balanced spiritual diet . . . and involving them in a dynamic and challenging plan for church growth. Good things lie just ahead!

Get On The Ball

. . . Get "Family Life Today!"

(NOTE: The following paragraphs are adopted from the "Family Life Today Newsletter." They accurately reflect the views of the BCE and are used by permission.)

FAMILIES ARE MAKING NEWS IN THE 1970's—and unfortunately a lot of it is bad. Christian leaders across America are deeply concerned about "fractured families," broken marriages, the lack of real joy, peace and love in so many Christian homes.

ALL OF THE TRADITIONAL VALUES SEEM TO BE UP FOR GRABS. Marriage is called an out-moded institution. Books like **Open Marriage** make best seller lists. Christian families are confused, apathetic—not sure of what their response to their culture should be. Slowly, but inevitably they are being brainwashed to accept—at least in part—many anti-biblical and anti-Christian ideas and values.

HOW CAN YOUR CHURCH FIGHT BACK? What can you do to offset the pervasive trends and influences that surround your families? SOME CHURCHES ARE ALREADY ON THE MOVE. Family is emphasized, preached about, talked about. Family Life seminars are springing up everywhere.

So far—so good. God is quickening His people. BUT WHAT CHURCHES NEED FOR THE LONG PULL IS A PLAN—and communication tools that will involve families in a regular, continuing program that is spiritually meaningful, strengthening to the family and enjoyable for everyone.

FAMILY LIFE TODAY is building the plan, the program and the tools you need to start the job and keep it going. FAMILY LIFE TODAY is your basic communication tool, designed to help you reach your people regularly with two vital ingredients for building and sustaining healthy family living as Christians. . . .

FIRST, THERE IS PLENTY OF SPECIFIC HELP FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIVING, especially the marriage relationship and the art of being a parent. Communication . . . discipline . . . family devotions ideas . . . marital roles . . . teaching Christian values . . . it's all there, plus plenty of activity, fun and humor—the everyday stuff family life is made of.

SECOND, AND POSSIBLY MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS MOTIVATION AND INSPIRATION FOR BEING A CHRISTIAN FAMILY. Woven into each issue are continual reminders of what the Bible says about marriage and family life. You need this positive input on a regular basis to counteract the pervasive bombardment of negative and destructive influences hitting your families from every direction and in all kinds of media.

FAMILY LIFE TODAY seeks to be practical and helpful. Above all it will be biblical—to help you give your families encouragement, determination and spiritual insight TO DEVELOP A CHRISTIAN VALUE SYSTEM AND LIVE THAT WAY IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

"Family Life Today" may be ordered on the regular G/L church school order blank. Designed as a monthly magazine to replace the excellent adult take home paper "Today," individual subscriptions are available at (12 issues for $7.75) or quarterly (5 or more orders to one address for $1.50/quarter).

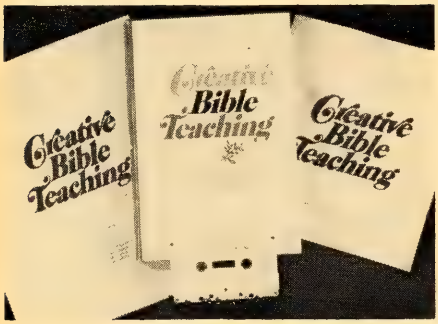
We urge every congregation to make this new and **useful** periodical available to every family.

RESOURCES

One of the major functions of The Board of Christian Education is to provide resources for the educational and youth ministries of the local church. The following pictures and paragraphs will spotlight a few of the new—and some not so new materials.

Creative Bible Teaching

A new teacher/leader training course



Creative Bible Teaching is a new teacher/leader training course produced by The Board of Christian Education of The Brethren Church. It is designed to be used either in groups or on an individual basis. The course is based on the book **Creative Bible Teaching,** by Lawrence O. Richards and was designed and field tested by Rev. James Fields, chairman of the Training Commission.

Each pack contains Richard's book (a $5.95 value), a C-60 Resource cassette and script, and a student's workbook. Additional workbooks, cassettes, and texts may be ordered individually.

Order Blank

Please send:

(1) Creative Bible Teaching Pack(s) _____ @ $7.95*

(2) Resource Cassette(s) _____ @ $2.95

(3) Richard's **Creative Bible Teaching** _____ @ $5.95

(4) Workbooks _____ @ $.35

or _____ @ 10/$3.25

Send To: _____

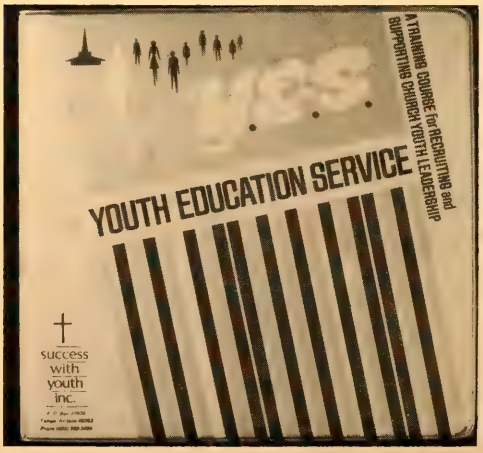
Address: _____

_____ Zip _____

*All Prices Plus Shipping

Y.E.S.

Developed about two years ago, this cassette-workbook "Youth Education Service" training course has proved very useful in the recruitment and development of effective youth leaders. The retail cost of the Y.E.S. course is $49.95. It is available for rental from the A-V Department of the BCE for $4.50. Workbooks are also available (8 or more $.80 each).



INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR LEARNING



From Success With Youth, this series of brochures represents a convenient base for the development of improved Parent-Youth interaction. These short brochures cover a wide range of issues which frequently arise in families with teen-agers.

Topics include:

—Parents, Your Teen-agers Need You
—The Teen-ager and His Crowd
—I'm Not Going to Church Today!
—Can We Treat Children Like People?
—You Never Trust Me!
—What About the Generation Gap?
—Can I Have the Car Tonight?
—I Don't Know What I Want to Be?
—How to Live With Your Teen-ager and Like It
—What to Do About Teen-age Rebellion

Cost: $1.25/package (containing one of each brochure and leader's guide).

INTERCHANGE BROCHURES

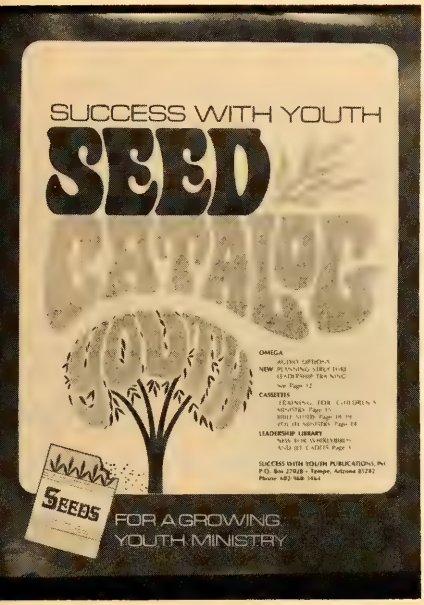


Coming in August 1975—a new, exciting, productive ICL Seminar at General Conference. Featuring five simultaneous seminars—Early Childhood, Childhood, Youth, Adult, and Administration—the International Center for Learning, the training arm of Gospel Light Publications, has been engaged by the BCE to conduct a concentrated teacher/leader seminar at General Conference.

Scheduled for Monday, August 11 through noon August 12, the seminar will expose participants to a wealth of information on how to more effectively organize and teach the Word of God. Pastors, teachers, superintendents and other interested Christians will be led by experienced professionals in developing new approaches to the educational work of the church.

Each participant will receive, as part of his registration fee, two ICL manuals in his chief area of interest, ,a packet of seminar-related materials, and more information than he ever dreamed in so short a time. Be alert . . . don't miss forthcoming information on ICL. Register early in groups of 10 or more to receive the best price package. ICL can help us turn our church schools around!

SUCCESS WITH YOUTH MATERIALS



Many churches are struggling to "grow a youth group." Shown at the left is the 1974/5 edition of the SWY "Seed Catalog" which is being sent to all advisors of registered BYC groups along with a handy calendar program planner. The "Seed Catalog" lists all current SWY products and a wide range of helpful materials produced by other publishers. It should be noted that in addition to the regular annual memberships or single trimester materials, SWY offers the very Creative "Do It Books" for both Senior and Junior groups and the Omega options (four programs/option) for high school groups. All can be ordered from the BCE.

Recent price adjustments are as follows:

	Annual	Single Trimester
Whirleybirds	$59.00	$30.00
Jet Cadets	59.00	30.00
Alpha Teens	64.00	32.00
Omega	69.00	35.00

WE NEED YOUR HELP

It's no secret that inflation is threatening to do us all in. Over the last twelve months, we have seen many of the supplies needed to sustain the BCE ministry—paper for instance—increase by over 100%. During calendar 1974, our costs are up and our income, from offerings and quarterly budgets, is down. That's a bad combination.

We were delighted that the years 1971-1973 found us "in the black" by a very narrow margin. This year the figures are "writ large" and red! We know that every individual and church has many demands on his rapidly diminishing spending power, yet we ask your help through the White Gift offering.

Help us continue to provide impetus toward church growth through church school improvement, improved youth program, and the distribution of needed resources.

We have appreciated the faithful support of our Brethren and trust that we may yet end 1974 on a sound financial base.

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



Mrs. David (Darlene) Moorehead accepting plaque from Rev. St. Clair Benshoff, pastor of her home church.

Each year the Board of Christian Education presents the "Educator of the Year" award to one chosen from among a number of nominees submitted by pastors and superintendents. It is always difficult to select the recipient because all nominees are deserving. However, after lengthy deliberation, one nominee is selected as being most representative of all the fine teachers in Brethren church schools.

Educator of the Year 1974 is Mrs. David (Darlene) Moorehead, a member of the First Brethren Church, Muncie, Indiana. At first it was thought that Mrs. Moorehead would be unable to be present to receive this award at General Conference. We were pleased that, at the last minute it was possible for her to make the trip to Ashland and she arrived just in time to personally accept her placque.

Pastor Benshoff has provided a brief resume of her involvement in the ministry of the Muncie church.

—Chairman of the Board of Christian Education
—Chairman of the music committee
—Church pianist
—Member of the Sunday School Cabinet
—Member of the Official Board
—Assistant teacher
—Co-chairman VBS
—Senior BYC Advisor (with Mr. Moorehead)

It is not difficult from this list to see that Mr Moorehead is a busy young woman.

In addition to her church work, Mrs. Moor head and her husband David are the parents two daughters, Jennifer (5), and Melanie Joy (bor October 13, 1974—8 lbs. 13 oz!).

Pastor Benshoff shares that "Darlene's Christia faith and character is evidenced in her home, her church and in her service to God and other She is sincere, earnest, compassionate and capabl This makes her valuable and outstanding in th various areas of her dedication and responsibility

Our congratulations and best wishes to th Mooreheads. We pray that God will raise up othe like them in every Brethren church.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In the fall of 1973 the Board of Christian Education began a new venture of service. We began offering our growing library of sacred contemporary music to you in our churches. At present there are over 50 songbooks and 40 octavos listed in the Music Index with a suppliment coming very soon containing many new selections.

You may order any of our music for review purposes or for actual use. This would enable you to see or use music without ever purchasing it.

These services are available for very reasonable rates for we are not out to make money but only to serve you. For more information and a copy of the Music Index fill out the form below and send to:

MUSIC DEPARTMENT
Board of Christian Education
524 College Ave.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

CHURCH _____

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR SUMMER 1975?

Maybe, it is too early for you to have definite plans but it is never too early to begin thinking and praying about what wonderful things God has for you. Plans for Summer 1975 are all ready under way in some exciting new areas. If you are interested in receiving application forms and the Summer Crusader policies for either the crusader program or internship, clip out the following and send immediately. We will begin sending the forms and policies out after December 1 with the return deadline being January 31, 1975.

ACT NOW! THINK MUCH! PRAY A LOT!

CLIP AND RETURN TO:

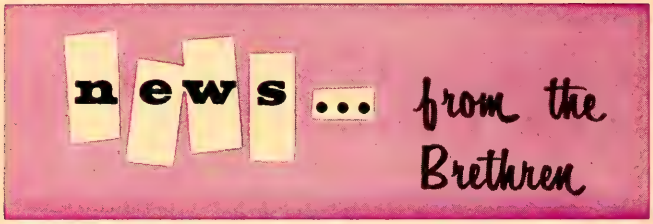
BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
524 College Ave.
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Please send me application forms and a statement of Summer Crusader Policies.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

I hold membership in the Brethren Church of _____



Memorials

LANDIS

Mary Anna Landis died in the Wabash County Hospital October 1, 1974.

She is survived by a son, Everett of Fort Wayne and a daughter Mrs. Wayne Parker of North Manchester, a sister, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was a faithful member of the North Manchester church. Services were held at the Mortuary. Rev. D. L. Hamlin officiated in the service.

* * *

STEWART

Mr. George Stewart 78, of Elkhart, Indiana passed away June 13, 1974 at his home in Elkhart. He had been an active member of the Altruist Sunday School Class until recent years. Services were held at Westbrook Metz Funeral Home on June 15, 1974 with Pastor Dale RuLon officiating.

* * *

STOTTS

Mrs. Mayme Stotts 88, of Goshen, Indiana passed away June 16, 1974 at Greencroft Nursing Home where she had been a resident for the past several years. She was active in the church while she resided in Elkhart. Services were held at Rieth, Rohrer, Ehert Funeral Home on June 18, 1974 with Pastor Dale RuLon officiating.

* * *

SNELL

Mrs. Blanche Snell 83, of Elkhart, Indiana passed away October 6, 1974 as the result of a heart attack. Blanche in the earlier years had been very active in the Church and loved her Lord. Services were held at the White Funeral Home on Wednesday, October 9, 1974 with burial in Rice Cemetery. Pastor Dale RuLon officiated.

* * *

MANNING

Margaret Ella Manning 99, of Elkhart went to be with her Lord on Wednesday, October 16, 1974. Ella was active in the Altruist Sunday School Class and had very good church attendance and activity in the church right up to the Sunday before her death. Services were held at White Funeral Home on Saturday, October 19, 1974 with burial in Rice Cemetery. Pastor Dale RuLon officiatel.

* * *

BRANNOCK

Mrs. Ruth (Willard) Brannock 69, formerly of Elkhart, Indiana died on October 2, 1974 in Winston Salem, N.C. as the result of injuries received in an auto-bus accident. Ruth had been very active in the Altruist Sunday School Cla until leaving the Elkhart area. Services were he at the Hartzler-Gutermuth Funeral Home Saturday, October 5, 1974 with burial at Ri Cemetery. Pastor Dale RuLon officiated.

Weddings

CLARK–McFARLAND

Miss Teresa Clark daughter of Mr. and Mr Gordon Clark and Ted McFarland, son of Mr. a Mrs. Ralph McFarland were married October at twilight, in the sanctuary of the First Brethr Church.

Pastor Immel officiated in the beautiful doub ring service.

* * *

ACHEY–HILL

Mrs. Lois Achey and Mr. Forrest Hill were ma ried Saturday evening, October 26 in her home.

Rev. Russell Bolinger officiated in this servic The new Mrs. Hill is a niece of Mrs. Albert Ro of Bryant, Iowa.

* * *

BERKEY–MILLER

Charlotte Berkey and Terry Miller were unit in marriage on Friday Evening, October 11, 197 The double ring ceremony took place at the Fir Brethren Church in Elkhart, Indiana with Past Dale RuLon officiating. Charlotte is the daught of Mr. and Mrs. William Berkey of Elkhart. Ter Miller is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Mille Jr., of Goshen, Indiana. Terry and Charlotte a living in Mishawaka, Indiana where Terry attending Business School and working for Fir stone Tire Store.

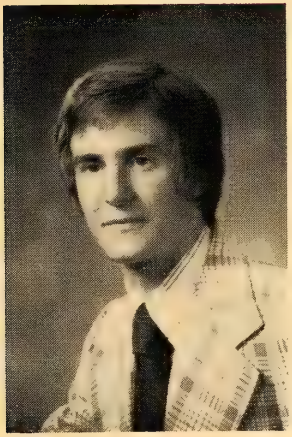


To Rev. Jim and Carol Geaslen, a son Jeren Ray, October 10th. Jim is Minister of Christi Education at the Park Street Brethren Chur in Ashland, Ohio and serving in the Campus Mi istry of Ashland College.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Burlington, Indiana—16 by baptism

ABORTION IS KILLING YOU, AMERICA



The following is taken from the Knights of Columbus Buckeye Bulletin:

David Stombaugh, a Senior at Bryan High School and a member of the Bryan First Brethren Church, was the winner of the Knights of Columbus state speech contest. The subject of the contest was "Abortion Will Kill You, America." The contest took place in Cleveland at the 75th annual Knights of Columbus state convention. Previously, David had won contests on the Council, District and Area levels. On Saturday evening of the banquet, David stood before 1,635 Knights of Columbus dignataries, members and guests to give his oral dissertation on Abortion. His words and warnings on this, our present day scourge, came from his heart, and certainly did not fall on deaf ears —he received a standing ovation. We, as Knights of Columbus, are NOT ALONE in our fight against the Supreme Court's ruling on abortion. When young men, like David, are seeing ABORTION as the wrong that it is—we have much to be thankful for in our YOUTH of today.

Following is a transcription of David Stombaugh's speech:

No war in the history of the United States received more protest than the Vietnam War. Multitudes of Americans, appalled by continuing death and destruction, demonstrated for peace—crying out for an immediate halt to this tragedy. Yet at the same time, within the very boundaries of the United States, a war was surging whose casualties cannot be compared to those of Vietnam. Within eleven years of fighting in Southeast Asia, 45,000 American combat deaths were recorded. Last year alone, an estimated 800,000 unborn children were killed in this country, and this was done with the full sanction of the law. From January, 1971, to October, 1972, 55,387 unborn children were killed in New York State alone. During that same time, however, only 1,574 Americans died in Vietnam. It is estimated that within the next twenty-four hours, abortion will kill an average of 4,110 unborn children in the United States. As a nation we must soon realize that the dream of peace, without consistent respect for human life, is indeed only a dream.

I think it's time the abortion issue be studied with honesty, for honesty seeks out the truth; it must be studied with emotion, for truly death is an emotional subject; and it must be studied with vision, for surely other anti-life issues will follow. Abortion is totally immoral and totally unnecessary. It threatens the very basis of our lives together in society.

Despite the ruling of the Supreme Court, abortiions are still wrong. The fact that they have been rendered legal in no way changes their moral status. A human life is at stake in every decision to abort. To say that a fetus is merely a part of a woman's body runs contrary to all biological evidence that clearly demonstrates the presence of a new and separate organism in the embryo. Noted pediatrician H. M. I. Liley stated:

> From the moment a baby is conceived, it bears the indelible stamp of a separate, distinct personality, an individual different from all other individuals.

Liley's opinion is not extreme. She is supported by the testimonies of men and women who have spent their lives studying early human development. Human life begins at the moment of conception—this is a scientific fact!

But in spite of this kind of medical evidence, the legal debate continues as to the time the fetus becomes viable or "capable of living." This fact is insignificant to the basic principle abortion presents. To interrupt a pregnancy at any stage is like cutting the link of a chain—the chain is broken no matter where the link is cut.

Theologians deem the point at which the immortal soul infuses itself into the human body as an important factor. This sacred moment has never or will never be fully comprehended by man. King Solomon himself acknowledged his lack of complete understanding in Ecclesiastes: "As you do not know how the Spirit comes to bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything." Nevertheless, the scriptures profoundly present the sacredness of human life!

Before the law, the unborn child is denied the protection afforded every human person, citizen or not. American law has long cherished and protected the principle that even the most despicable felon cannot be deprived of his life or freedom until he is found guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt." How, then, can America consent to the destruction of the unborn child when there is so much more than a reasonable doubt as to his

SIGNAL LIGHTS PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

BIBLE THEME:

Friends

Bible Story:
Friends of Baby Jesus

Christmas Story:
Christmas Time at Bruce's House

FRIENDS OF BABY JESUS



Bible Story: Friends of Baby Jesus

(Set up a nativity scene showing the wise men worshipping Jesus. Use any other visual aid you may have such as a filmstrip, flannelgraph or pictures.)

A man stood gazing at the stars. "Look! There is a new star," he said to his friends. "It is bigger and brighter than any of the others."

"It means a king is born," said one friend.

"Let's go find him," suggested another.

So the men began a long journey. They crossed the desert following the bright new star. They rode on camels. After many weeks they came to Jerusalem. They went to the palace.

"We have come to see the baby king," they told King Herod.

"What!" shouted Herod. "There is no baby king here."

Then he called the palace teachers. "Where will the Jewish king be born?" he asked.

"In Bethlehem," answered one of the teachers. "God's Word tells us He will be born in Bethlehem."

King Herod directed the visitors to Bethlehem.

As the men traveled to Bethlehem the star again led the way. It stopped over a house. The men got off their camels and knocked at the door. Joseph opened it.

"Is the baby king here?" they asked.

Then they saw Mary holding Jesus. They went in and worshipped Him. They gave Him gifts of gold, perfume, and spices.

The next day they started the long journey home. They sang as they traveled. They were joyful for they had seen the Baby King. They had seen Jesus. They were His friends.

—Based on Matthew 2:1-12

Memory Verse: Matthew 2:11

The wise men showed their friendship and love for Jesus by worshipping Him and giving Him the best gifts they had.

Our memory verse tells us, "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down,, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh."



CHRISTMAS TIME AT BRUCE'S HOUSE

A Christmas Story:

Christmas Time at Bruce's House

"Cookies! You baked cookies! said Bruce as he came home from school. "Boy, do they smell good!"

"Beth help Mommy," said his little sister. She was standing on a chair looking at the freshly baked cookies. "Stars. Trees—Christmas trees. Bells." She pointed to the various cookies as she told Bruce what they were.

"We were just ready to put the icing on them," Mom told Bruce. "Would you like to help us?"

"Oh, yes," replied Bruce. He went to the sink and washed his hands. After he dried them on the towel he came back to the table.

"You may put this green icing on the trees," Mom said. "Then, Beth, you may sprinkle some of these little candies on the trees after Bruce has iced them."

"When will we get our tree?" asked Bruce as he spread the icing on the cooky trees.

"Perhaps Saturday," replied Mom.

"Some of the children at school said they have their trees already. Some of them are always talking about what they want for Christmas. Jack wants an electric train. Susie wants a talking doll. Larry wants an airplane that will really fly." Bruce was silent for a few moments. Then he continued. "Christmas isn't just a time to want things, is it?"

"No," replied Mom. "Too often boys and girls as well as grown-ups think only about the things they want and what they will get for Christmas. Why do we have Christmas?"

"Because it's Jesus' birthday," answered Bruce quickly.

"Birthday. Jesus Birthday," repeated Beth.

"Yes," nodded Mom. "And what do we do on someone's birthday?"

"Give them gifts," replied Bruce.

"And so it should be at Christmastime," said Mom. "We should honor Jesus on His birthday. We should show our love for Him by the kind and thoughtful things we do for others. When we plan what we want on His birthday we are not honoring Him. We are being greedy and selfish."

"That's the last of the tree cookies," said Bruce.

"I have finished the stars and bells, too," said Mom.

"May Beth and I lick the spoons" asked Bruce.

"Yes," answered Mom. "Perhaps you can scrape a little icing from the sides of the bowls, too. While you are doing that, let's try to think of ways we can honor Jesus on His birthday."

"Oh, I know!" said Bruce. "May we take some of these cookies to Mr. Bailey? He lives all alone and doesn't have anyone to make cookies for him."

"That's a good idea," agreed Mom. "When you are through with the bowls you may take some to him. Perhaps he would like them for his supper tonight.

"Is there anything else we can do?"

Bruce was thoughtful. "When the children were talking about what they wanted for Christmas, Jimmy said he wouldn't be getting any presents. His mom has been sick and his dad doesn't have a job. When you go downtown, instead of buying a gift for me, would you get one for Jimmy?"

"That I will," said Mom as she gave Bruce a hug. "Even with one less gift under the tree, you will be happier than ever this Christmas. By giving your gift to Jimmy you will be showing your love for Jesus on His birthday."

(Talk with the children about things they can give to others this Christmas. Help them to understand that Christmas is a time for giving. God gave His Son.)



World Religious News in Review

RUSSIAN CHURCH REPORT

MOSCOW (EP)—There is greater depth in the Christian faith among Russian Christians than there is in the United States, a leading churchman said after a three-week visit to the Soviet Union.

United Methodist Bishop James K. Mathews of Washington, D.C., said he had been "extremely moved" by the Russian Christians' deep devotion.

The church in Russia, he explained, "has been able to develop the inner life rather profoundly."

Bishop Mathews was among a group of 20 representatives of the National Council of Churches on the tour hosted by the Russian Orthodox Church.

DR. HENRY: AMERICA HAS PASSED HER SPIRITUAL AND MORAL PEAK

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—America has passed her spiritual and moral peak—"whether irrecoverably remains to be seen," according to Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, evangelical theologian and writer.

Dr. Henry, founding editor of Christianity Today and now lecturer-at-large for World Vision International, said the nation's pluralistic culture "now increasingly lacks a 'conscience' that provides the moral foundation indispensable to democratic government."

"Many Americans now have a shadow conscience no longer illuminated by Scripture and hence they are subject to all sorts of inconsistencies and inadequacies on moral judgment and behavior," he said.

Dr. Henry presided over a panel of directors of the Institute for Advanced Christian Studies who discussed "American Conscience in the Post-Watergate Era" at a meeting here.

LEARN TO 'COMMUNICATE' MESSAGE, ZAMBIA LEADER TELLS CHRISTIANS

LUSAKA, Zambia (EP) — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia said here that a gap will exist between young Africans and the Churches until Christians themselves grasp and then learn to communicate their "dynamic" message.

"Young people would be so pleased if (the) message were effectively put to them," he told the Mirror, an ecumenical newspaper, in an October issue marking the 10th anniversary of Zambian independence.

Dr. Kaunda, president since 1964, answered a wide range of questions on politics, religion and social issues in the Mirror interview.

The president, a Protestant, was asked what he could suggest for reversing a trend in which young Africans "dismiss religion as superstitious and colonialist." Most of Zambia's 5.5 million people follow traditional African religion. Christians number less than one million.

PENTECOSTAL TELLS CITY OF LOUISVILLE: 'HERE'S WHAT DELEGATES WON'T DO'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (EP)—An official of the United Pentecostal Church International opened the denomination's 50th annual General Conference here by announcing what delegates would not do while in Louisville.

The Rev. Nathan Urshan, assistant general superintendent of the 250,000-member denomination, responded to greetings from Creighton Mershon, president of the City of Louisville Board of Aldermen, by saying: "We won't do anything to harm your city. We won't pollute your air with cigarette smoke. We won't frequent your bars. We won't go to your race tracks. Our youths are addicted, but they are addicted not to dangerous drugs, but to the Holy Spirit and the will of God."

Among the things the more than 12,000 delegates did do were to adopt a statement opposing legalized abortion and appoint 13 new missionary couples to various foreign fields.

Most of the sessions during the six-day convention were devoted to testimonies, preaching and Gospel singing.

Delegates pledged nearly $1 million for home missionary work in the United States and Canada.

OREGON SPEAKER LEADS 380 WOMEN IN PRAYER FOR FIRST LADY

HUME LAKE, Calif. (EP)—During the annual women's retreat here at Hume Lake Christian Camps, 380 conferees sent a letter to Mrs. Gerald Ford citing their collective prayers for her rapid recovery from surgery. Mrs. Frances Warkentin, chairman of the retreat, signed the letter which enclosed signatures of the registrants.

Mrs. Marjorie Lottis, director of "Woman—God's Idea," based in Salem, Ore., led the three-day retreat in the Sierra National Forest at which many women made first-time commitments to Jesus Christ and many others were renewed spiritually.

The speaker, who leads 700 women in Bible study in Salem each week, said she was challenged to become an aggressive Christian when she read a remark by Lord Shaftesbury of England: "Give me a generation of Christian women and I'll undertake to change the face of society in one year."

The women told Mrs. Ford: "Our meditations were centered on Psalm 103 from which we drew great strength and blessing. We dedicate with love its exquisite message to you.

"You will . . . be remembered in our homes as we continue to pray for you."

DR. CLATE A. RISLEY SHOT IN HOLDUP TRY

CHICAGO (EP)—Funeral services were held this week for Dr. Clate A. Risley, founder and president of World Wide Christian Education Ministries. Police theorize he was shot to death in a futile robbery attempt. He would have been 59 next month.

A single slug from a handgun penetrated his heart after being fired at close range about 7:45 p.m. Oct. 11. Dr. Risley was outside his office when the unknown assailant accosted him. Police believe the killer was frightened off after the shot and fled without taking any valuables.

A native of Montana, Dr. Risley earned his degree at BIOLA College then in Los Angeles and was awarded an honorary doctorate at Northwestern College, according to Mrs. Hal Cory. Mrs. Cory is treasurer of the World Wide Christian Education Ministries, Inc.

The deceased had been a Baptist minister for about 10 years in Spokane, Wash., before becoming director of the National Sunday School Assn. for about 12 years. He was once director of the Sunday School Dept. of World Evangelical Fellowship. He founded the WCEM in 1963.

He is survived by his widow, Carole; three sons; Jack, Gary and Marc; and two grandchildren.

Dr. Risley died on a weekend when 27 Chicagoans were murdered—three times more than the average.

EDITOR SAYS GOD IS NOT SANTA

GRAND RAPIDS (EP)—Dr. Harold Lindsell, editor of Christianity Today, told a crowd of 1,000 here that "there is a popular misconception" that "God is some kind of a Santa Claus." But, the editor added, "there is a hell to which men go" and about two billion souls who have "never heard of Jesus Christ that He will send there."

Dr. Lindsell issued a "ringing call for evangelism," the Grand Rapids Press reported. In an interview with Scott Scholten of that paper, the editor talked also of ecumenism and social action.

In a plea for concern about witnessing to the world's unsaved, Dr. Lindsell urged Christians to be "among the company of the broken hearted" over those who do not have a saving relationship with Christ.

Explaining his views on social action, the editor said the Christian on earth has a dual citizenship: "in Caesar's kingdom as well as in Christ's."

The Christian has a responsibility to improve world conditions, but the main goal is to bring men to Christ, the editor declared.

Dr. Lindsell said he didn't think social action might be a rallying point for ecumenism. "There is a chasm that separates the evangelical churches from the ecumenically-minded ones," the editor asserted. "That chasm is personal redemption."

The convincing factor that continues to separate the two groups, he added, is that ecumenism tends to develop a strong stand of universalism or universal salvation and the evangelical Christian doesn't believe that.

CHURCH'S REPORT ON CANADA'S ELDERLY: LONELINESS MAJOR PROBLEM, NOT POVERTY

TORONTO (EP)—The greatest problem facing old people is loneliness, not poverty, according to a report released here by the United Church of Canada.

The 174-page report said 48 per cent of old people surveyed cited loneliness, boredom and a feeling of being unwanted as the most serious problem. Thirty per cent cited little money and the high cost of living as the main problem, while 12 per cent cited ill health.

The Senior Citizens' Media Research Project was sponsored by the Toronto Area Presbytery of the United Church. It was funded by $45,000 in grants by the Canadian Radio-Television Commission, the Secretary of State, the New Horizons Program of the National Health and welfare ministry, the Ontario government's Ministry of Community and Social Services and the United Church.

The report called for more attention by the media to old people who sometimes need to change the image they have of themselves, the report said.

NATIVE AMERICANS HELP TRANSLATE BIBLE

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (EP)—The Bible has become so important to native Americans that some are helping shoulder the job of translating it into their own languages, according to the outgoing director of the North American Branch of Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Dr. Irvine Davis said the Navajos, soon to get a revised New Testament and complete Old Testament, "have for several years done the translation themselves. This is happening," he said, "in a number of other language groups, too. Years ago some of us translators had the idea that we were the translators and all the native American was supposed to do was to feed us the information. We would do the work. More and more we're recognizing the potential of involving the native Americans themselves in doing translation."

Surveys show 150 languages exist in the United States and Canada besides English,, the majority tongue.

"Our surveys tell us that between 50 and 60 of these are viable languages, used as the normal means of communication in the home," Dr. Davis said.

CHURCHMEN AGREE THAT EVANGELIZATION SHOULD BECOME UNIFIED EFFORT

GARRISON, N.Y. (EP)—Two clergymen — a Protestant and a Roman Catholic—agreed during an ecumenical conference on Christian mission here that the need for evangelization in the world is greater than ever and that there should be "one, unified" Christian effort to accomplish this goal.

The Rev. Pharis J. Harvey, a specialist in young adult ministries in Japan for the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, and Father Malcolm Martin, S.A., agreed that "mission today cannot be a venture entered into separately by the various denominations each in their unique and traditional way."

LAFF-A-LITTLE

As the mother was pouring out into six glasses the contents of a well-known one-calorie soft drink, one of her sons asked just as she poured the last of the bottle, "I wonder who gets the calorie?"

Daffynition of Laryngitis: Conversation peace.

A lady being most particular about the ability of a parrot's vocabulary told the clerk in the pet store: "I would like to buy a parrot, but it had better be able to talk." A parrot in a nearby cage said: "I can talk lady, but can you fly?"

How is a person supposed to be ill at ease when he looks at what the hospital bill is going to be?

Little Johnny was second in his class, and the top place was held by a girl.

"Surely, Son," said his father, "you are not going to let yourself be beaten by a mere girl."

"Well, you see, Daddy," Johnny explained soberly, "girls aren't nearly as mere as they used to be."

The sweet young thing was upset when her boy friend didn't help her into his car.

"Where," she asked, "is your chivalry?" And he said: "Didn't you notice? I traded it for an Oldsmobile."

City dweller on a visit to a farm asked, "Is the water on this farm healthy?" The farmer answered, "It sure is Mister, we don't use anything but well water."

"Mother, why aren't there any pictures of angels with whiskers."

"Because, dear, men get in by a very close shave."

In a little mining town out West, there was an old man who had lived in the same white frame house for 40 years. One day he surprised all his neighbors by moving into the house next door. Reporters were sent to see why he had moved. When they asked him, he replied, "I guess it's just the gypsy in me."

BOOK REVIEWS

SPIRITUAL vs. PRACTICAL

Sometimes as we contemplate "church growth" we seem to see a contrast between those who suggest we need only follow the Holy Spirit versus those who say we can grow only with careful program, statistical analysis, and evaluation of methods.

I have just read a book "Building Today's Church" by Leslie Parrott which has a strong emphasis on the Holy Spirit in pastoral and lay leadership and also gives many practical helps for personal commitment as well as for ongoing programs in the church. If you are interested in seeing your church grow, this book could be very interesting reading.

Mr. Parrott writes twenty chapters covering such topics as getting along with the official board, making Sunday an event, music, ushering, finances, preaching, counseling, and even a self analysis that doesn't bring on paralysis. Although some areas of discussion might not be as pertinent as others for your own church, all chapters have new information or old information stated in a new way that is conducive to a re-think of the idea. The author starts with a well worked out —points and sub-points—on the special problems of pastors and lay leaders in their personal lives and ends with the ideal church and ideal pastor.

A very good guide on pastors and laymen working together, it is published by Baker Book House and is available from the Brethren Book Store in Ashland for $2.95 plus postage.

The Bookworm



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Did You Know? American motorists dump an average of 1305 pieces of litter per month on every mile of the nation's primary highways —nearly 16,000 pieces per mile per year.

* * *

Put metal tabs from drink cans and plastic carriers for six-packs in trash cans. They are hazardous to animals as well as a litter problem.

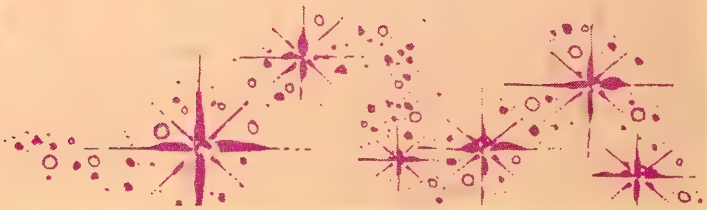
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The Brethren
EVANGELIST



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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS



The chilling winds of inflation have finally become so cold that the weatherstripping and caulking applied to the windows and doors of The Publishing Company are no longer sufficient. The last installation of insulation in the subscription rate of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST was made in 1960. (Pages 10-11, September 3, 1960 issue of the church organ.)

It is virtually impossible to determine the exact percentage of increase in the cost of production of the periodical for the past fourteen years, especially in these last two or three years.

After much prayerful deliberation and exploration of various detours to circumvent the rocky and rough road ahead, the Board of Publications at its last business meeting most reluctantly agreed that an increase in the subscription rate of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST and THE BRETHREN QUARTERLY would be necessary in view of the higher costs of paper, ink, postage rates, labor and replacement of vital equipment essential in publishing.

The rate increase will be effective January 1, 1975 for THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST and the Spring Quarter 1975 of THE BRETHREN QUARTERLY. The proposed rates will be $5.00 per year for single subscriptions to THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST $4.50 for 100% churches and THE BRETHREN QUARTERLY as follows:

1 copy$.75 ea.
5 plus$.60 ea.
1 copy per year$2.80
Leaflets$.50 (per Qtr.)

Individuals and churches whose subscription renewals are due January 1, 1975 can renew at the present $4.00 per year rate if received by the last of December of this year.

This also applies to those who may wish to enter a new subscription to THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST and receive our church organ at the present $4.00 rate.

By the Way

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a man born contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did he cross the boundary of the country in which he lived; that was during his exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth or influence. His relatives were inconspicuous and had neither training nor formal education.

In infancy he startled a king; in childhood he puzzled doctors: in manhood he ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep.

He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for his services.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about him.

He never wrote a song, and yet he has furnished the theme for more songs than all the song-writers combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under his orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practiced psychiatry, and yet he has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near.

Once a week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes find their way to worshiping assemblies to pay homage and respect to him.

The names of the past proud statesman of Greece and Rome have come and gone; the names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more.

Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of his crucifixion, he still lives. Herod could not destroy him, and the grave could not hold him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We are either going to be forever with him, or without him. It was the incomparable Christ who said:

"Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to Him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)



"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (I Timothy 2:5)

Therefore,

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." (Acts 16:31)

Reprinted with permission from the "Community Corner" section of the COLLEGIAN, the Official Student Publication of Ashland College since 1922. Our thanks to the administrative and editorial staff of the COLLEGIAN for this privilege to share with our readers these provocative and soul-searching meditations. (Ed.)

MISSIONARY NEWS

by Emmanuel Urhobo



THE CHALLENGE OF NATIONHOOD

In the challenge of nationhood, an understanding of the historical background of the varied peoples now composing the Nigerian nation may be useful. Long before the penetration of Africa by Western civilization, there were examples of several old civilizations of Nigeria which were rich in the diversity of their culture and systems of administration. These included the Bornu, Katisina, Kano, Zaria, Oyo, Benin, Igala, Nupe, and Jukun.

The beginning of the Nigerian nation as one unit started with the political and administrative arrangements introduced by successive British governments from 1885 onwards. Various geographical areas of the country were gradually consolidated into separate protectorate and colonies until 1914, when the amalgamation was called the British Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

In 1939, the Southern Province was subdivided into Eastern and Western provinces. In 1947, the Northern, Eastern and Western provinces were redesignated regions. Ten years later the Western and Eastern regions became self-governing and in 1959, the Northern Region attained the same status. Finally in 1960, Nigeria became an independent federation.

In its march toward nationhood, Nigeria had the advantage of several British institutions, including education, religion, administration, commerce, and agriculture. From the end of the last century, it had produced a small but impressive number of educators, professional people, and administrators who acquired political, administrative, institutional, and commercial expertise. Awareness of their surroundings and potentials had been acute by the end of World War II when they sought fulfillment in a national sovereign context. The leaders negotiated for and achieved the independence of the country from Britain in

1960 and it is pertinent to observe here that this was due, to a very large extent, to the Christian missionary influence—a most important factor which started Nigerians on the road to freedom. Without missionary education and British institutions, it is inconceivable that Nigerians' early desire for freedom and the means with which to win their independence could have been so easily fulfilled.

The conflicts which arose between 1960 and the 1967-70 Nigerian Civil War were the unfortunate growing pains of a people of diverse cultures and ethnic groups, with interdependent political structures, suddenly thrown together to evolve a national government. Two major factors deserve attention here.

First, it was an irony of fate that a people tutored in British unitary form of democratic government were, at independence, experimenting on a federal constitution alien to both the British experience and Nigerian traditional systems.

Secondly, the negotiations for independence did not include economic independence or any clear-cut economic arrangements likely to eliminate the fears of ethnic and regional groups who were afraid of being left behind in the development of the country. It also left untouched the economic monopoly and stranglehold of the concentration of economic power in British and European hands.

The experiment in federalism as an instrument of nation building, the struggle for power between the regions and the political parties, the attempt to work out a temporary solution to tribal fears and frictions, and the attempt at allocating resources to the satisfaction of all three regions were some of the most important factors which led to the interruption of Nigeria's otherwise impeccable march toward nationhood in 1967. The manner of the prosecution of the Civil War, the cessation or hostilities, and the return to peace were, however, further proof of Nigeria's maturity and resilience.

In today's world of international, economic, and military power diplomacy, the concept of nationhood must emphasize, more than ever before, vigorous and cooperative unity and direction of purpose among national groups. It is under this atmosphere that the nation can maintain its sovereignty and a stable atmosphere within which all its resources could be utilized most efficiently, to improve the standard of living of its people and to sustain a vigorous economy. It is this concept of nationhood that can guarantee a meaningful freedom from ideological, economic, and military vulnerability and exploitation.

Nigerians have since the end of the Civil War become more conscious of the meaning of nationhood and the need for nation building. The national anthem expresses the true meaning of unity in the Nigerian context: "Though tongue and tribe may differ, in unity we stand. . . ." The seeming fractionalization of Nigeria into more than 200 languages and an almost equal number of ethnic groups and subgroups, and its political history preclude a rigid unitary concept of nationhood. But it underlies the urgency for the active molding of its wealth of diversity into some complementary and parallel streams of development directed toward the achievement of common ideals and objectives. The creation of the twelve-state structure of government during the Nigerian Civil War was a step in that direction. The various peoples of Nigeria could now find fulfillment of the aspirations within their own ethnic and geographic groups and their national identity in the interaction between the groups and at the national level.

In consolidating its nationhood, Nigeria is now on the road to meeting the present and future economic needs of its peoples. It has a large agricultural base which it is now about to develop fully to provide employment, feed its large population and contribute to its total economic growth. It has developed an industrial base and it is about to embark full-swing on developing its economy, fully employing all its rich natural and human resources. In the course of economic development, many social and political changes are bound to occur which would lead to a better life and a strong and healthy nation.

Nigeria has been also fortunate in accommodating Christianity, Islam, and Animism without serious religious conflicts. Yet the lessons of the religiously inspired conflicts in other parts of the world have brought about a new consciousness. Nigerians would readily admit that religion should play an important part in nation building but will equally resist any attempt by any religious group to play a leading role in determining the political, economic, or social relations in the country. Many different factors have brought about a radical change in Nigeria's attitude toward religion. The political and economic developments in other parts of Africa have brought a synthesis of thought and aspirations in Africa.

The relevance of Christianity in the constantly changing situation in Africa becomes a factor of prime concern to all. This has been accelerated by the articulateness of many once depressed people who are now free, or in the process of being free, in their efforts to determine their future and their relationships with the rest of the world and their institutions in Africa. The increase in knowledge and communication since the end of World War II has exposed Christianity today more fully to the ugliness and injustice of poverty, racism, and economic exploitation. Cultural, ideological, and religious pluralism has synthesized modern thought on Christianity. Christianity as an institution is recognized as part of the political and economic power structures of the Western world today. Thus Christianity is expected to lay itself on the line where it stands on these issues, in order to be relevant not only to Africa but to the problems and issues confronting all of mankind today.

Independent African states zealously guard their sovereignty. They want to control and run their institutions themselves, including health and education. Missionaries must therefore be aware of and accept the changes which these demand in the nature and direction of their services, where these are demanded. They must be willing to give their services where and in what manner they are needed and asked for, not in the way they have been accustomed to in the past. It is in this flexibility and adaptability of the missionary to change that the credibility of nonpartisan missionary service in Africa can be reestablished for the future.

Nigerians, along with Africans generally, are not rejecting Christianity, but they are going through a period of stress as traumatic as those being experienced by missionaries in Africa today. They are bewildered by a religion which extols individualism, equality, and freedom for all peoples, but which is suspect of being allied with the economic and power structures which deprive them of their rights of free choice and emancipation. They are disturbed by the rationality of a religion which invites hell-fire for the sin and immorality of the oppressed but shies away from the forceful condemnation of the sin, immorality, and injustice of powerful individuals, corporations, and states which claim allegiance to the Christian faith as the basis of their oppressive acts. Africans are also now rejecting the trappings of Christianity based on Western culture and not on established doctrine.

It would be worthwhile, in these circumstances for missionaries to examine their own cultural biases and how far they can be justified in their present application of Africa today. The whole strategy of Christianity today points to the direction of relevance without loss of "pure" doctrine.

Missionaries today should be more than spiritual leaders. They should be able to inspire people to social effort for the community; to build roads or train various skills when these are the things of greatest concern and need for the people they serve in the name of God. The separation of the needs of the spirit from the needs of the body is no longer an acceptable doctrine in the African context today.

In conclusion I would commend the Church of the Brethren in its work in Nigeria. It has been my privilege to watch the Brethren at work in Nigeria especially during the Nigerian Civil War and immediately after the end of hostilities. Those missionaries in Africa and in Nigeria who are still looking for a point of relevance in the ever-changing conditions in Africa will do well to follow the example of the Church of the Brethren which represents, for many Nigerians, the type of Christian involvement they will like to see in the church in the future.

It is my hope that this will come about quickly and that together we can all cooperate in the total liberation of peoples everywhere towards their spiritual, economic, social, and political self-determination.

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BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



ORTHOKERATOLOGY*

"At a recent Sunday School Convention mention was made of the excellent periodical you publish with ideas for Sunday School teachers. Please send 25 copies of each issue so that all our teachers can receive your paper." (Presbyterian Church in Willmar, Minnesota).

> "Your workshop demonstrated so many different ways to present the Bible, and for children to express themselves." (Brethren Church in Canton, Ohio).

"Some of our editors and program personnel are interested in previewing your filmstrip, THE PURPLE TREE, with the view of writing it into curriculums and programs." (Audio-Visual Librarian, Church of the Nazarene headquarters, Kansas City, Missouri).

> "Your workshop was an experience to renew my batteries and a challenge to stimulate my creativity. Thanks for coming." (Peru, Indiana).

"Just want to let you know how much we enjoy your newsletter. It really gives us oomph as we struggle along here." (Lutheran Church in South Bend, Indiana).

> "God bless your 'missionary efforts' to spread the word of this exciting way to open others to the Gospel and to their own creative abilities." (Methodist Church in Lansing, Mich.).

"I am thoroughly enjoying my subscription to the **Brethren House TIMES**—the material and insight which you share is tremendous. Thanks for a good job! Would it be possible to have 25 sample copies to share with our local Christian Education Directors' Fellowship?" (Baptist Church in Denver, Colorado).

> "I am thrilled to find that learning about God and the Bible can be such an exciting experience. To be able to impart this to children can also be a joy for a teacher." (Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg).

"I cannot express my appreciation, words cannot convey my feelings at this time following your workshop! God bless you!! My love to you for all you do." (Brethren Church in Elkhart, Indiana).

"I just received and read my sample copy of the **Brethren House TIMES.** There's so much in it that can be used by different ministries in our church that I have not figured out how to get started distributing and using the ideas yet. . . . One thing I do know—I've discovered a creative group of Christians in St. Pete! That's GOOD NEWS! God be with you in His ministry." (Christian Church in Plantation, Florida).

"You cannot imagine how eagerly I look forward to your publication's arrival. I devour each idea, shuffle them to the teacher who could use them at that time with a unit of study, and finally I make index cards according to subjects." (Presbyterian Educational Coordinator in Germantown, Tenn.).

"I wish to thank you for all of us here for all your great ideas and interested help you have given us. If we are successful, so are you!" (Christian Church in Toledo, Ohio).

"I think your ideas are fantastic and will be helpful as I plan my lessons. . . . I am not teaching at this time, but it makes me want to start again. . . . This experience has been fabulous. It has given me the incentive to use available materials and new resources in a much more meaningful learning experience for the kids. . . . It just sparked up a new feeling in me which I needed. . . . Appreciated the many new ideas and ways of presenting God's Word. . . . I was amazed at how many different approaches to learning were displayed. The creativity and imagination were great. . . . I really feel full of enthusiasm and ideas now. Can't thank you enough!" (Compilation of comments about workshops).

"We read your newsletters and find much to help us. . . . A friend in Ohio was able to attend one of your workshops last summer and she has sent us her notes, which really helped. . . . **You keep us going!"** (Congregational Church in Cresco, Iowa).

WHEN COMMENTS LIKE THESE ARRIVE WITH REGULARITY IN OUR MAIL, IT BECOMES SO CLEAR TO US HOW GOD IS USING BRETHREN HOUSE TO MAGNIFY THE OUTREACH AND INFLUENCE OF THE TOTAL BRETHREN CHURCH. The contacts we have with teachers and pastors of other denominations number in the hundreds. And those who reply with personal letters are quite positive and encouraging . . . and thankful.

When we came to St. Petersburg 7½ years ago—and continually since—we have prayed that God would show us His Way of mission here. **We didn't intend Brethren House to happen.** Our sights were set on a local church community. We just didn't know how He wanted to bring this about. Now, as we look back, we understand that God wanted to use Brethren teachings and influence and support in a different mission than we had envisioned. He wanted to build on our Brethren endowment of Bible-emphasis (as well as our natural bent toward teaching, which Bonnie's talents and training underscored) to REACH OUT with His Message to others across the world.

It's natural to think of a denomination's "outreach" in terms of the work done by our world missionaries in foreign countries . . . or by the contacts made when people come into a church building (either a mission church or an established congregation) . . . or by the evangelism activities in a neighborhood surrounding a local church . . . or by the training offered to young people at our college and seminary . . . or by the housing provisions made for the elderly . . . or by the Brethren literature printed and distributed . . . or by the training of Brethren teachers and young people . . . or by. . . . Yes, these are all forms of outreach.

But we are increasingly aware of the fact that God has opened up opportunities for us at Brethren House to assist in the training of teachers and other church workers in many different denominations. And we feel that's "outreach" too.

Not that we Brethren only have the truth, and others don't.

Not that we Brethren have all the answers.

Not that Brethren ideas are the only ones these contacts use.

But the truth is that teachers and Christian educators are seeking the materials and ideas developed at Brethren House—all of which reflect our Brethren emphasis on the Bible. Frequently we get letters from people asking for more. They are using what they receive from and about Brethren House. Invitations for workshops keep coming in. We are now serving as Educational Consultants on a regular basis for two other local churches—a Presbyterian and a Methodist.

Translated, this means that "we Brethren" (you readers and those of us here in Florida) are having an influence on the "handling of God's Word" in non-Brethren contacts all across the country—and in Canada—and in Hawaii—and even in Australia . . . as well as in our own Brethren House neighborhood.

Some of these are big churches. Some are small. Some are military chapels. Some are Christian schools. Some are after-school programs. Some are area teacher-training executives. Some are denominational heads in charge of curriculum. Some are . . . and their contacts with the churched and unchurched are innumerable.

This is outreach . . . and because it is OUTREACH,, it is MISSION! An aspect of mission that we didn't anticipate when Jean and I came to St. Peterburg 7½ years ago . . . or when Bonnie Munson came 3½ years ago. A kind of "distinctive ministry" that the Mission Board didn't expect when they first issued the call. A form of outreach that you didn't realize as you've given financial and prayer support through the years. A silent happening that isn't always easy for our small congregation to grasp as we meet and give faithfully week by week. But it is there. **God knew about it all the time, and I think we're all finally getting our eyes in focus too.**

The close ties that we have with other Christian workers in many places make Brethren House much more than a neighborhood ministry . . . much more than a Christian Education laboratory. This project of the Brethren Church is MISSION (not only neighborhood, but national)—right along with our denomination's other forms of mission. Slightly different, Yes! But still definitely the re-

sult of faithful response to God's call. And there is no greater responsibility for the church than that response in any era.

A few weeks ago I was in conversation with Jim, the president of our St. Petersburg, city-wide Fellowship of Religious Educators. The numerical size of the Brethren Church came up, as others gathered around us informally prior to the start of the meeting. I mentioned that we had about 16,000 members.

He looked puzzled for a moment. "You mean in your whole denomination?"

"Yes, that's it. You see, Jim, we're just one of the smaller ripples in the pond."

"Well, the size doesn't matter. If your denomination doesn't do anything else worthwhile than what you're doing at Brethren House, that's reason enough for it's existence."

And I thanked God again
for what **He** is doing.
—Phil

*(*A Vision Correcting Technique)*

Addendum to "Beat" Article

FLASH!!! A lady just called long-distance from Ann Arbor, Michigan, requesting that we RUSH her a copy of our Bible-teaching game MAILOPOLY so that she can use it with her class on Sunday. She just got around to reading the September **Brethren House TIMES** and found the game fits into her lesson perfectly. She needs it **at once.** Bonnie and Phil are away and I just happen to be home recuperating from a cold (a rare occurrence in Florida), so that I can help meet this need of a Northern teacher. **Another indication that the Brethren are meeting needs, the Brethren are IN MISSION, the Brethren are REACHING OUT by supporting BRETHREN HOUSE!**

—Jean

When you're praying for me, don't forget

THE LITTLE THINGS

by Joyce Park

The devil isn't dumb. He may stalk around like a roaring lion, devouring people, but when he's eating me he's scuttling around like a hundred little cockroaches. What I mean is, when he's roaring, he's quite obvious. Then I have my defense at hand. I call on God's promises, rise to the challenge and fight back. But when he's scuttling . . . Well, I often don't know I'm being attacked until it's too late.

The devil roars in with a bad case of hepatitis, or an unsolvable grammar problem, or the worship of evil spirits which control the people of the river.

But he scuttles in with cockroaches in the cookbook, butter turning rancid when I can't get any more, the supply plane missing a flight so we eat tuna for a week, little boys staring in through the window, a string of minor illnesses, kids not sleeping at night, one more glass of milk spilled. . . . Each little thing produces its own anxiety and adds to a great weight of tension until we get to the last straw which, in our most recent experience, was the day our pet cat was stolen.

I suspect that this sneak attack is not confined to foreign missionaries. It seems like a really effective way to break anyone. We need to pray for each other!

People living in foreign cultures do face adjustments that compound the pressure problem. There's the tension of no one else speaking my native language; I can never tell a joke and have it understood. Social attitudes and responses are drawn on a different map, one that I can't read. I am often confused and usually just guess at what my responses should be. It seems that everything must be learned the hard way. For example, my neighbor once said. "When you finish cooking, please give me some." So I did, and she was thoroughly embarrassed. She was just making conversation.

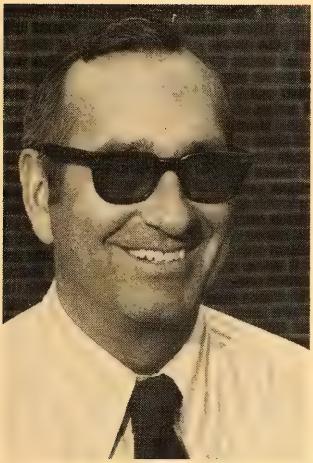
The other day two women came to the house and called me. We went through the greeting routine and then they just stood there and stared at me. What did they expect me to do? Give them something to eat? Sing? Laugh? I didn't know, so I just stared back. It seems funny now, but when you're being stared at, the pressure is building.

According to my customs, the people here are often rude. Probably according to their culture they're not being rude. But my attitude dies hard. On the other hand maybe they **are** being rude, and that's hard too. Or what if what I do to be polite seems rude to them? This kind of tension makes a good foundation for the other little irritations.

So when you're praying for me, don't forget the small matters, the little things we don't often ask prayer for. We like to emphasize the spectacular, the dramatic and the exotic which, I admit, make more interesting reading. But when you pray for any fellow believer, especially one serving in a culture not his own, remember the little irritations, the frustrations, the confusions; the anxieties—"the little foxes that spoil the vines"—they are what's getting us down.

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MODERATOR'S MESSAGE



by Virgil L. Barnhart

In a recent Moody Monthly magazine article the following statement impressed me. I liked the positive point that was made concerning a lay persons discoveries and applications. "Church renewal, body life, lay ministry. The names for it vary. But more and more churches are seeking—and finding—a spiritual life that sparkles with vitality. And more and more lay persons are discovering how to walk in the Spirit, and how to minister to each other in love."

Many pastors of various denominations all around the world are helping in this discovery and application (of lay persons) by pastoring and teaching from God's revealing and recorded Word for Spiritual maturity. Ephesians 4:12-13 gives definite instructions and guidelines relative to our commitment and obedience concerning the perfecting of the Saints, the work of the ministry, and the edification of the body of Christ. Are we aware of the personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ? It is available by faith.

The early Church practiced purity of doctrine and love among the believers. Lay persons today can put their beliefs into action. Let the world see our faith and love shine forth as we seek the Spiritual walk. This is necessary for a dedicated life of guidance, obedience, and personal discipline.

Many Christians have been taught to believe that successful Christian living is accomplished by attending church activities. We need a vital and fresh approach concerning lay activity. I read recently that if each Christian would minister to others in the congregation then the Church would become a unit of people helping one another to live their faith actively and positively.

If we in the Church are going to learn to love, we need to learn to get personally involved with each other. I've seen this evident in our Church in the past few years. As we meet in fellowship groups we are learning to love each other and to share our faults, needs, and concerns. The more we meet in the Church as well as in homes the better relationship we have with each other due to the unity of faith and love that we are able to express through Spiritual guidance.

Individual growth comes from learning to love and minister to different kinds of people. If we confine our love to individuals of our own age and life style, we'll never learn what unity in Christ really means. We need this challenge of fellowship, this exchange of love, in personal relationships. What better way to accomplish this than by meeting and joining together for the express purpose of growing spiritually in God's plan and purpose for our lives.

It's good to come into the sanctuary on Sunday morning to worship and be filled with the Spiritual food that is necessary for our "walk in the Spirit." It is also great to go forth to serve and proclaim this to those with whom we come in contact daily. As we get involved with people who are searching for answers, and seeking a better way of life, we find that we have the answers and facts in the gospel. We gain confidence when in our witness and testimony God's Word reveals to us the answers and solutions that people need. Then we find excitement in our own lives by seeing the transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We truly believe that Jesus Christ is the source from which we can be changed spiritually. From this fact we learn to bear one anothers burdens, to pray for one another, to minister to others in the Christian family, and to share the wonderful message of salvation so our "family of God" will increase.

We cannot establish this love for others by our own efforts and through our own works. But the Spirit of God, if given free rein by our heartfelt choice, can make this reality ours personally. Through His power the people of God can become the living body of Christ; the living Church.

Let's be committed to walk in the Spirit, minister to one another in love and be obedient as lay persons as God directs.

A SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE IN THE EARLY CHURCH AND BRETHREN CHURCH

by Elder Gene R. Hollinger

This is the final installment in a series of three study papers on Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage prepared under the sponsorship of The Brethren Ministerial Association. Concluding this series which began with Marriage From A Biblical Perspective being emphasized in the first segement published in the September 21, issue and An Ethic For Divorce and Remarriage as Set Forth By Jesus in the November 2 edition are: The condensation of the paper, A Summary of The History and Remarriage in the Early Church and Brethren Church presented by Elder Gene Hollinger, presently serving as pastor of the Brethren Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa and the responses to Pastor Hollinger's paper, Divorce and Remarriage in Church History, given by Dr. Owen H. Alderfer, professor at Ashland Theological Seminary and Elder Charles Lowmaster, Pastor of the Brethren Church in Louisville, Ohio.

Since the post-apostolic times we have seen the teaching of the Church to be, no divorce and no remarriage among Christians. Callistus, bishop of Rome, c. 220, was the only exception I found and he held out forgiveness for adultery and after penance, allowed for remarriage. The misconstruing of Paul's teaching about marriage contaminated much of the writing about celibacy, virginity and monasticism. It is significant the Jesus' and Paul's words were not interpreted as absolute, unchangeable moral law. And as today, the teachings and writings did not always describe the practice. Change toward laxity did take place as the State Church grew. We have seen divorce and remarriage treated all the way from legalism to liberty.

Throughout history three views of marriage have emerged; **natural** (family and civil, Lutheran), **sacramental** (Catholic) and **covenantal** (Anabapsist). The Church must decide which of the views she is going to practice. For her view of marriage will determine how she views divorce and remarriage. We have in our early Brethren beginnings the view of marriage as covenant under

God. The church, pastor and people must each understand their role in the covenant. Is the pastor just a witness, or does he 'perform the ceremony,' i.e., bring God's blessing to bear on the union? Or do we nearly approach the role of priest in marrying them or do we just pronounce them man and wife for the State? Perhaps we have become so eclectic that we have combined all three views into our concepts of marriage, divorce and remarriage.

The founder of the Brethren, Alexander Mack had this to say about matrimony; "In like manner must true matrimony be so conducted that they be one according to the outward flesh, but much more according to the inward part in the will of their God must they have one body and one faith in Christ Jesus. In no other manner has matrimony been instituted and consecrated. But where people marry on account of pleasures, and riches, and not in unity of faith in Christ, such a marriage lies under the curse, and must be rejected by the faithful and is improper in the church of the Lord, and always has been punished by God." In the early Brethren Church, 1708-1850, marriage outside the church was punishable by expulsion. But even here the discipline was not uniform ". . . for they also realized that discipline was lacking and that in marriage, marrying, the raising of children, etc., too much disorder prevailed."

In the period 1850-1880 the position was that remarriage after divorce constituted adultery, no matter what the cause of the divorce. The issue was debated hotly from 1867 to 1880. The Brethren wanted to stand firmly against any member of the church obtaining a divorce, but it is clear that they recognized certain situations in which divorce was permissable albeit only on grounds that could be clearly shown to be biblical. After long years of debate and deferment the decision as to whether a person could be permitted to remarry after obtaining a divorce on the grounds of unchastity was retained by the local congregation.

From 1880-1974 we still find those who allow no divorce and no remarriage, those who say that if a mate is unfaithful divorce is permissable—some allowing for remarriage and others not. In 1934 Dr. C. A. Bame wrote in the Evangelist: "Now, we believe that we have reached a method of procedure possible in such difficult places: (1) Persons who are divorced and re-married cannot hold office in the church. At least, they may not be ordained to office. (2) Genuine repentance must be manifested by all who are so unfortunate as to have more than one living companion before they become members of the church because, adulterers 'cannot inherit the kingdom of God.' Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5; I Cor. 6:9, 10. One cannot repent of a sin and remain it it. God saves from sin, not in sin. (3) Since it is apparent that the early church showed mercy to offenders, the modern church may well do so, so long as they justify only the Scriptural reason for divorce.

The working out of the problem must rest with the local church but all teachers and preachers should strive for the Gospel interpretation and practice."

In 1970 Brother Jerry Flora presented a paper asking for a balance approach to the problem of marriage, divorce and remarriage. He echoed the call for mercy that Brother Bame expressed: "Let us practice the original Brethren doctrine of following whatever fresh light the Holy Spirit may give, and reach his own conclusions. Each case that comes before him calls for individual consideration, and each case must be decided on its own merits and demerits. . . . The last word from Scripture: 'Always speak and act as men who are to be judged under a law of freedom. In that judgment there will be not mercy for the man who shows no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment' James 2:12-13."

It seems to me the church must become more concerned with marriage, home and family in its fullest aspect and not just perform weddings. The coventanal concept appears to me to have the fullest view of marriage. But more emphasis must be put on the couple's readiness to enter such a covenant than on the clergy's role in it. The whole church is a covenant community and all should share in the marriage of two Christians.

Then there will be those coming to us during and after a covenantal relation has broken down. We must then put forth the power of reconciliation in Christ. When that covenant is broken and divorce is an old wound in various stages of healing, and they come for remarriage shall we still hold out forgiveness, reconciliation and mercy? Can a new covenant be entered into in repentance and forgiveness "IN THE LORD?" This is a question each of us must ask the Spirit and let His Wisdom, Mercy and Love operate in the Body of Christ.

Let me close with these observations about the Believers Church: "Our gospel fellowship is . . . not determined by the ordinances of the 'founder' during his lifetime but it is determined by what Christ does now . . . He is at the center of this community and it is what he does that causes the community to appear and determines its form. . . . The only structure of order the spiritually present Head of his people requires is a personal relationship of hearing, obeying and witnessing. . . . As descendants of Radical Reformation groups we have had much previous experience with too rigid discipline. Sometimes we have been bound by too rigid adherence to the letter of Scripture or more commonly to the letter of Scripture as interpreted by the rigid human demands of culturally ossified Quakerism, Brethrenism, Mennonism, etc. The word of man and his authoritarian structures bound us to the letter of our books of discipline, while quenching the life, the spirit, and the freedom of both."

Francis A. Schaeffer says: "Biblical orthodoxy without compassion is surely the ugliest thing in the world."

The Brethren Church does not have a complex ecclesiology because she believes that God reveals the ministry of the Church in each age. Therefore with this type of history and life, the Brethren Church of all churches should accept the challenges of historical changes with peace, strength and power.

Let us be aware of and avoid the excesses we have seen in the church of the past. Let us seek guidance of the Head of the Church, and power of the Spirit as we love, serve and obey in the present and future.

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY

A Response to Elder Gene R. Hollinger

by Owen H. Alderfer

Elder Gene Hollinger has done a well-researched and respectable piece of work in his statement on divorce and remarriage in church history. No doubt he expected church history to show a high standard regarding divorce and remarriage; the beginning of his "Summary and Conclusion" would imply this: "Since the post-apostolic times we have seen the teaching of the Church to be, no divorce and no remarriage for Christians." I do not find the case to be quite that clear. However, I appreciate the writer's frankness and humility: "I have not answered all these questions yet myself. . . ."

Indeed, the available record does not completely satisfy the researcher who would seek for the final word on views in this regard (the plural—views—is used purposely). There are, however, clues for our guidance, as Elder Hollinger suggests. Probably this is the base from which we must operate, making inferences for our situations out of the evidence from the data of history.

History shows that the problems of dissolving a marriage and providing for remarriage has always confronted mankind—inside Christianity and out. Christianity, taking the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles seriously and literally, stresses the indissolvability of marriages and the inappropriateness of remarriage as long as a former spouse survives. Even with this spirit, however, one is forced to raise the question as to whether these teachings represented absolute demands or basic ideals.

It is clear that, even with the church, views on divorce and remarriage are at every point in time related to the prevailing climate of opinion and the current impact of the church upon culture. The earliest statements on the subject indicate an absolutist rigor arising out of a declining morality in Imperial Rome over against a high moral demand in the separatist church. Shepherd of Hermas sees spiritual fornication as ground for separation. The later Tertullian is typical of growing sentiment that celibacy is the better state. Origen had himself castrated in an expression of ascetic impulse. The influences here are not limited to Christian teachings. Coupled with platonic Gnostic dualism they represent a powerful thrust against divorce and remarriage; in fact, leaders such as Tertullian held that there was no place for second marriage even when one's spouse had died.

From the time of the Constantinian settlement forward many in the church tended to take a more liberal position on divorce and remarriage. Adultery and malicious desertion constituted grounds for divorce. The less rigorous held that victims of such violations were free to marry; the more rigorous (e.g., Augustine, Jerome, Chrysostom, Ambrose) gave no place for divorce. Even Augustine does not make remarriage of such persons grounds for excommunication. He did not find scripture absolutely clear in the matter. It seems that the rapid influx of pagans into the church in tension with the growing influence of the church was leading to modification of earlier positions.

The next great shift in attitude is seen in that period of history when the church dominated culture. Here, in the Middle Ages, marriage had become a sacrament. In the sacramental structure the church uses its agencies not only as means of grace, but also as instruments of control. The rigorist position of the Roman church is not based solely on the teachings of the Scriptures; it is a logical outcome of the sacramental pattern and a practical instrument of the monolithic structure.

Time does not allow for elaboration upon the more liberal position which developed in the Protestant bodies with their focus upon the individual and upon the whole area in the Enlightenment with its emphasis on human freedom and natural rights. In the latter case, if marriage is a contract entered into by agreeing parties, it ought to be dissolvable if both parties agree to annul the contract. The impact of such thinking upon our present situation is obvious.

Elder Hollinger, it appears, approaches the subject from a legal standpoint more than any other: is divorce and remarriage right from the point of view of the laws of God and of man? The approach of scripture and of early Christianity seems to be

more concerned with the spiritual significance of the relationship. Ignatius, c. 115, (**Ep. to Polycarp**, 5) is specific that marriage shall be at the consent and direction of the bishop, that this marriage be according to the will of God and not of the lust of the individuals. The fathers after him follow his pattern in concern to protect the believers from less than Christian marriages. There is no evidence that Ignatius and the Fathers are concerned about the person who performs the marriage or the legal implications of the marriage. The concern is for the health of the Body of Christ.

As seems to have happened in many cases, the church quite early lost the crucial focus of the early years and tended to emphasize proper ideals for the wrong reasons. Our present obligation is to deal with contemporary situations in light of the spirit of the Word. Scripture makes it clear that God takes man where He finds him—both generally and specifically—and does what He can with him. This has all kinds of implications for us in view of the sexual and family revolutions that we are experiencing in our age. The witness of the church to the evils of divorce and remarriage must be clear—for the right reasons. Yet we must deal with hurt and broken people with Christ-like love in the places and conditions in which we find them.

DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY

A Response by Charles Lowmaster

(Note: Page references are to the original unabridged manuscript.)

The assignment given me by the Divorce and Remarriage Study Committee was to serve as a respondent to the topic and material presented by Elder Gene Hollinger. First of all I want to commend him for the very excellent coverage and documentation of his work and for his several summaries which attempt to focus on the basic questions raised by his study. Since his task was largely to report what has been done rather than make recommendation, my response will not be to Elder Hollinger, or what he has so well done but rather an attempt to gain some perspective out of the mass of diverse opinion and practice evidenced in this Post Apostolic Period

I must confess that I have to question, at times, the value of such an historical study. But at the same time might offer these suggestions: First, that it serves to emphasize the continual confusion about what is the Biblical teaching about the true ethics of Marriage-divorce and remarriage and perhaps raise the question as to whether there is any one, universal, Divine ethic for all people though I believe there is.

Secondly, the study reveals the radical prejudice, or ignorance, of many who are regarded as some of the most learned of the past. Apostolics, who reflect more of a dependence on subjective, humanistic deduction and little evidence of a real balancing, harmonizing and trust in the Scripture. It is evident that, just as today social pressure, civil laws and a humanistic spirit within the Church had as much to do with molding the spirit and discipline of the Church, as did the revelation of God.

There is considerable evidence to support my contention that a large part of our problem proceedes out of too low a view of the Scripture, and failure to understand the relation of God's grace to His Law. Several illustrations might be called in evidence: Richard Soulen gives a summary of the development of Marriage and Divorce in the early Church notes that:

> "The dynamic operating in the struggle between tradition and God's revelation in Jesus, has been interpreted to be the struggle between two understandings of the nature of revelation. On one hand there is knowledge of God's will for human life, on the other there is the desire to communicate His Love and Forgiveness which experience teaches is more than law. The Early Church did not interpret Jesus' teaching as an absolute, unchangeable law—"

Soulen continues by saying that the Church tried to retain the intention of the law but felt a freedom to adopt it to historical situations. He, of course, is noting that the Church recognized the need to communicate the law through a loving experience. But, there is also the implication that God's love cannot be communicated without perverting his law and that the Inspired Word is not absolute and universal, but relative, selective or situational. He also refers to a difference of belief on the Marriage and Divorce subject between the Pauline and Markan Churches, Jesus and Matthew. But again, the implication is that there is a certain incompatibility among the teaching of these men themselves.

(continued on next page)

This same idea is suggested by others "Luther, so respected and learned on many subjects, showed an utter ignorance (or reluctance) on Biblical, Marital teaching. Calvin took liberties which could not be Scripturally supported. Zwingli expanded upon the exceptive clause. Roop states that in I Cor. 7:15 Paul "permits a Christian to separate from his spouse if the partner is not a Christian and does not wish to remain married." Yet the truth is that Paul nowhere permits a Christian to put away his mate for such cause but states that if the **unbelieving** is not willing to live with his believing mate, the Christian must let him or her go. There's nothing he can do to stop it anyway, but that a Christian is not to take the initiative in such an action (I Cor. 7:13).

It is interesting to note the snowballing effect of the humanizing attitude toward "law" (generally understood as the teachings of Scripture). On pages 16-17 it is noted that the Brethren were fairly consistent in their stand on divorce and remarriage until 1867. Then divorce for "unchastity" was allowed; then recognition of the "innocent party" (page 18); then "local option" (page 19) until Roop records (page 19) that in 1933 The Church of the Brethren recognized that divorce could be a healing agent!

Others who have written in our day on the subject of divorce and remarriage have proposed that the solution lies in freedom of choice. Others cause us to question their understanding of the relationship between law and grace by suggesting that we cannot "put under law someone saved by grace," or that Jesus' words are "ideals" not "laws" or that Jesus was not a "legalist" because He did not condemn the woman taken in adultery. Though a certain truth resides in each of these, the tendency is toward too low a regard for the force and authority of Scripture.

The third issue raised by this study is the need to define marriage. It is because of this confusion that the wisdom and perspective of the Biblical teaching is confused. The following is a summary of some proposed principles:

1. "We see that it is not an ecclesiastical act of blessing which makes a valid Christian marriage, but each marriage, contracted by either Christian or non-Christian according to the ordinary civil laws of a given time and place, is recognized as valid by the Church." (Page 6) This leads me to ask the question what part did (does) an elder take in a marriage ceremony in the early church? Apparently very little." (Page 7)
2. Augustine (Page 6) and Lombard (Page 9) developed the concept of "sacramentum" from the Roman civil law concept that "it is the mutual consent of the couple which makes the marriage valid." (Page 6)
3. Aquinas (Page 9) proposed that marriage is only validated by sexual potency in both parties and that its absence in either is grounds for annulment (no marriage).
4. The Anabaptists (Page 13) proposed the covenant relationship of marriage.
5. Skelley (Page 22) would deny the validity of a "pre-conversion" marriage where divorce is concerned and its carry over into the life of faith and denies that God's laws apply to the unbeliever. Yet the fallacy of such reasoning is that if this be true in the case of divorce, it must also be true for the marriage which remains intact through conversion so that while the conversion of the divorced is redemptive in that it frees him from the obligation of his previous marriage, it is condemnatory to the peacefully married because it must also declare this couple "freed from their pre-Christian marriage which would make their present state one of "fornication" or "common law!" Furthermore, if God's laws (including those of marriage) are not applicable to the unbeliever as well as believer, on what basis will God dare judge the unbeliever? This idea is contrary to Romans 2. Elder Hollinger (Page 32) touches a keystone in the confusion when he suggests we need to determine the relationship of reconciliation and forgiveness to remarriage.
6. Lindower (Page 24) makes a similar error in proposing that the "one flesh" principle, the consummation of the marriage contract, is validated in **Physical union.** The obvious fallacy of this is that physical union becomes the "marrying agent" making every illicit sex act a marriage. And yet the Bible condemns illicit sex. But what makes it illicit if the sex act validates the marriage? There obviously is something that validates the marriage before the act.
7. Brown (Page 23) proposes that there can be a civil union without a Divine union. Again, there is no Biblical evidence to support such a statement.

Permit me to suggest that there seem to be several principles contained in the various theories as to what validates marriage which together give us the definition of marriage. They are:

1. The mutual consent of the marriage partners to initial union.
2. An agent representing the law and authority of the social community of which they are a part. (This would answer the question "What part does the minister play?")
3. Public covenant of intention before that community and God who notes and seals the covenant.

The fourth issue, which perhaps contributes most greatly to the confusion, is the failure to deal with the difference between fornication and adultery. It cannot be settled simply from a word study in the Greek but must be defined by the law and example of Deuteronomy 22, Matthew 1: 19, etc. Truly, the primary struggle lies in the failure to recognize the bounds and relationship of the law of marriage and the grace of forgiveness, resulting in attempts to change their boundaries to accommodate one's view of grace. The humanistic defense of human integrity and reluctance to admit sinfulness result in an attempt to change the law to accommodate a more "loving" application of grace by avoiding the need of repentance and permitting a greater freedom through forgiveness than the Scripture would allow.

In my opinion the Scriptural approach is best presented by Dr. Bame and Elder Bates in the writings of Brethren History.

WOMEN'S LAB



WOMEN CONDUCT NEW EXPERIMENT

Speaking of serendipity—and, of course, we weren't; but I had to bring up the subject to establish my point—some members of the Ohio District W.M.S. held a retreat at Camp Bethany October 25 and 26 to "recharge their spiritual and physical batteries," with resulting serendipity. (Incidentally, this retreat or week-end of spiritual refreshment was an activity which Margery Whitted had long tried to promote. The group remembered her efforts with gratitude and sensed her presence with them.)

To be sure, these women did achieve this desired recharging of batteries, but in addition they uncovered some further values in life that they may have been unaware of previously. Here is where the serendipity comes in.

During two days of magnificent weather, the women made numerous unexpected discoveries. **First,** they recognized, if they had not done so before, that there is no generation gap among Christians. The group was comprised of some quite young members of the W.M.S. and some who were "over the hill" (past thirty)—at least your scribe suspects a few were at least thirty-one. And yet, the fellowship was aware of no age; all were one—a bit of serendipity.

Then horizons were widened by a flight to Colombia, South America, with Peggy Beekley piloting. Her description of and enthusiasm for the work at Medellin with the Solomons gave one the feeling of being there and, certainly, of wanting to help. She emphasized the fact that we have not just two missionaries on the field (Ken and Jeannette), but six, adding Tim, Becky, Joel, and Margaret. The missionary children, through friends and school contacts, are bringing in the spiritually hungry and needy.

Peggy took her audience further into the interior on wings of song, by teaching them melodies with Spanish words. Supplementing her verbal enthusiasm for the program at Medellin, she showed slides which proved missionary activity to be not only beautiful, but difficult. So great is the need and so zealous are our workers! As she piloted her breathless listeners back to a successful landing, all were convinced that there may be both professional missionaries and gringos (not to be understood disparagingly). Peggy may be classed among the latter. W.M.S. members too felt a new compulsion to promote this ministry—more serendipity.

A **further** highlight came when special speaker, Mrs. Gloria Carter of Tallmadge, Ohio, shared her own spiritual explorations as well as experiences with her family and in her travels, pointing up woman's place in the home and in the church.

Later, she showed colored slides of natural stones, in a message called, "The Stones Cry Out," illustrating the Gospel message and signs of the Second Coming of Christ. She provided her listeners with a greater feeling of being needed and a zest for life—still more serendipity.

There were also discussion periods, allowing for the re-arranging of one's mental furniture or even some intellectual transplants (new ideas), all of which was greatly stimulating.

These experiences and ideas, interspersed with games, scripture, music,, and prayer—in a room warmed by an open fireplace, by Christian fellowship, and by an awareness of God's presence—provided richness, fulfillment, and new purpose for living. Such gifts were a real bonus above and beyond battery recharging.

Capping the grandeur of the occasion were the incomparable meals provided by Fern Smith—truly nectar and ambrosia to the housewife on vacation. The occasion would have been incomplete without Fern.

Here was a real Women's Lab experiment, resulting in a proven product: an awareness of God's purpose in women's lives. —il



DEVELOPING DYNAMIC CHURCH LEADERS

Every year each congregation goes through the process of selecting persons to serve in key leadership roles. The moderator, secretary, treasurer, general superintendent, youth leaders, teachers and an impressive array of assistants are elected or appointed to lead various aspects of the church's ministry. Every year many nominating committees have great difficulty in finding enough persons who are qualified and willing to serve. Anyone who has experienced this dilemma recognizes the need and importance of an ongoing leadership development program in the church.

We know that the Holy Spirit has given gifts to every Christian (See Ephesians 4:7-16) in order that the body of Christ could be built up. Thus, a new dimension is added to the talents and abilities the Christian possesses. Howard Snyder asserts that "A spiritual gift is a God given ability that has caught fire." (**Christianity Today,** October 12, 1973, p. 17).

These gifts are given for specific Christian service. Every gift is important; every Christian has something important to contribute to the health and function of the body (See I Corinthians 12). Therefore, we view the purpose of a leadership development program as helping persons discover and develop the gifts the Holy Spirit has given them. To be effectively used, the leader must take care never to think more highly of himself than he ought (see Matthew 23). He must instead, adhere to the servant model in Matthew 23:11-12 (NEB);

> "The greatest among you must be your servant, For whoever exalts himself will be humbled; and whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

A true Christian leader is a servant who is seeking to build up the body of Christ. Perhaps a pastor's greatest privilege is preparing ". . . all God's people for the work of Christian service, to build up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12 TEV).

Leadership development in the church should be designed to:

(1) Help present leaders improve their skills as they use their leadership gifts.
(2) Help every member discover what gifts God has given them and then assist them to develop and exercise their special gifts.

Looking again to Biblical precedent, we find that Jesus took the initiative in the selection of future leaders. According to Mark 3:14, "He appointed twelve as his companions, whom he would send out to proclaim the Gospel. . . ." Later he selected seventy-two more whom He would send out (Luke 10). In each case, He gave the workers specific verbal instruction which related directly to their life experiences. He lived with His men and provided a model for behavior in a variety of circumstances. He sent them out to "try their wings," in an on-the-job training program which included evaluation when they finished.

Growing churches develop leaders. Every Brethren church should evaluate its present leadership development strategy. Some questions which should be asked include:

(1) Do we have a file on every member—his intests, abilities, and gifts?
(2) Do we have any leadership training programs planned? Have we promoted them?
(3) Do we have a list of people whom we are praying that God will activate?
(4) Do we specifically recommend reading materials for our leaders? Do we make them available?
(5) Do we involve youth in **real** leadership roles?
(6) Do we continue to support and assist new workers by checking on their progress and needs?
(7) Do we provide on-the-job training for workers?

Plan now to avoid a leadership vacuum in your church.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION



David Bolinger, son of Rev. and Mrs. Larry Bolinger, former missionaries to Nigeria and presently serving the Smithville, Ohio Brethren Church, has been named to "Who's Who Among American High School Students," the largest student award publication in the nation.

David is a senior at Smithville High School and an active member of BYC. He won a certificate of merit and a Gold Key Award in the O'Neil's of Akron annual student art exhibit. He plans to attend Ashland College and study Art and Psychology.



Mark Aspinall, son of Rev. and Mrs. Ray Aspinall, missionaries in Rosario, Argentina has been nationally recognized as a 1974-75 National Merit Scholarship finalist.

Mark is an active member of BYC in the Smithville Brethren Church and a senior at Smithville High School. He is presently living with his uncle's family, Mr. and Mrs. Adin Murray of Sterling, Ohio. He is interested in future education in the field of Electronics.

OPERATING FUNDS NEEDED

Income has leveled off . . . costs are spiraling . . . educational needs are growing. That's the situation the Board of Christian Education faces. The response to the educational and youth programs is very encouraging. Unfortunately costs are rising at an alarming pace.

Much of the work of the BCE is of an administrative or resource nature. Not spectacular or even very exciting in itself. Nonetheless, these services represent an important support system relating to nearly every other program in The Brethren Church.

We urge you to support the White Gift offering for Christian Education. The situation is critical . . . funds must come or operations must be curtailed.

Send your personal gift to:

Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

or designate a special gift through your regular church offering.

news ... from the Brethren

Weddings

WALTER–GAMBLE

On Friday, August 2, 1974 the Walcrest Brethren Church, Mansfield, Ohio, served as the site of the marriage of Miss Bonnie Walter and Mr. Larry Gamble. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Spencer Gentle, a former pastor of the Walcrest Brethren Church. He was assisted by the Rev. Richard Dunn and Rev. William Brady, the present pastor of the Mansfield congregation.

The brides parents Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Walter are very active in the Walcrest Brethren Church as well as the other members of the Walter family. Mr. and Mrs. Gamble are now living in Mansfield, Ohio.

* * *

STOOTS–BROWN

The sanctuary of the Walcrest Brethren Church was the site of the September 21 wedding of Miss Jan Stoots and Mr. Ralph Brown. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. William Brady.

The parents of the groom Mr. and Mrs. Berlin Brown as well as other members of the Brown family are active in the church program at the Walcrest Brethren church. Following their honeymoon, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brown set up their new home in Mansfield, Ohio.

* * *

RINEHART–NELSON

The early evening hours of October 25, 1974 in the sanctuary of the Walcrest Brethren Church was the setting for the wedding rites of Miss Linda Rinehart and Mr. Danny Nelson. Rev. William Brady officiated at this service. The music was provided by Mrs. Lynne Brady.

The parents of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Nelson are very active in all aspects of the church life in the Walcrest Brethren Church. The new couple will be residing in Galion, Ohio.

Memorials



MAMEROW

Clem M. Mamerow, 82, a member of the Brethren Church of North Liberty, Indiana. He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. John I. Oberly, Mrs. W. S. Shields, and Mrs. William Heck; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and a brother Orville of Phoenix.
Rev. Stephen Cole officiated.

Goldenaires

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Howman—57th on November 11, 1974.
Sarasota, Florida

Mr. and Mrs. George Giltner—56th on October 17, 1974.
Sarasota, Florida

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Derby, Kansas—7 by baptism, 2 by letter
Twelve Mile, Indiana—4 by baptism

CHURCH NEWS

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Sarasota First Brethren Church celebrated its 20th Anniversary November 3, 1974 as Rev. Fred Vanator Day honoring its founding pastor and pastor emeritus.

On Nov. 7, 1954 the initial gathering of ten Brethren met in the home of Rev. and Mrs. Fred Vanator and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Mohler to organize a new Brethren Church in Florida. Rev. Fred Vanator and Rev. O. C. Lemert were the co-founding pastors.

May 27, 1973 Sarasota organized its first branch church in Bradenton, Florida with its first full time pastor, Rev. Russell Gordon. At present the Sarasota First Brethren Church has 621 members and the Bradenton Church 35.

A special plaque was presented to Rev. Vanator on the 20th anniversary of the church, "Rev. Fred Vanator Day." Capt. Floyd G. Bowers, Jr., Moderator, presented the plaque at the morning worship service. The guest speaker was Rev. Leroy Fulton, president of Warner Southern College in Lake Wales, Florida. Special anniversary booklets with a church membership directory and the constitution and by-laws were presented to all who attended. The evening worship service was highlighted by Mr. Tom Shill, a student at Warner Southern College who has been blind since birth. He has sung with the Billy Graham crusades in Cleveland, Ohio and the Bob Harrington Crusade in Dayton, Ohio. The Brethren "Eternity Singers" under the direction of Mrs. Eugene Robbins was also featured. A reception was held in the Education Building following the evening service with over 300 in attendance.

Sarasota, Florida



photo by Mr. LaVergne Stone

l. to r. Floyd Bowers, Moderator; Rev. and Mrs. Fred Vanator; Dr. J. D. Hamel, Pastor of The Sarasota Brethren Church



Rev. Vanator united with the Brethren Church in Warsaw, Indiana at the age of 14. After completing his academic requirements at Ashland College and Seminary he was ordained into the Brethren Ministry.

Having served as student pastor, interim pastor and resident pastor in various churches throughout Ohio and Indiana for twenty-two years he accepted the position of Editor of Publications of The Brethren Publishing Company until 1953.

Upon moving to the sunny state of Florida to spend his remaining years he still felt the call of the ministry as strong as ever dwelling in his heart and this call was the nucleus which resulted in the initial gathering of the ten Brethren mentioned at the outset of this article. (Editor's note)

NEWS FROM ASHLAND COLLEGE

ASHLAND, Ohio, Oct. 31—The Ashland College History Department with the cooperation of the college history students and the Omicion Zeta Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, national history honorary, hosted a History Career Day on Friday, Nov. 8. High School students and teachers were invited to participate.

The program began at 9 a.m. with registration and "coffee" in the lobby and mezzanine adjoining Hugo Young Theatre. At 10 a.m. the keynote address was given by State Senator Thomas Van Meter (R–19), a graduate of Ashland College in history.

From 10:45 to 12:45 a.m. a number of professional persons who specialized in history as college undergratuates discussed "Career Opportunities through History." Participating on the panel and in the discussion groups were: Ministry—Rev. Eugene Beekley, Ret. Chaplain, USAF and presently pastor of the Park Street Brethren Church; Library Science—George Wooster, assistant librarian, Ashland Public Library; Social Work—Gary Courtright, administrator of Ashland County Board of Mental Retardation, Dale-Roy School; Law—Robert Henderson, attorney-at-law, Ashland; Politics—Senator Van Meter; and Teaching—Dr. Marvin Harvey, professor of history and Professor Gerald MacKeller, chairman of the department of history.

A tour of the campus followed lunch at 1 p.m. in the Convocation Center. In the afternoon, participants had the option of attending one of three programs: "Visual Aids and Multi-Media" with Dr. Charles Ferroni, professor of history; "Archeology and History" with Dr. Delbert Flora, professor of archeology, Ashland Theological Seminary; and "Encounter with History" with Dr. John Baker, professor of history and director of the division of social sciences.

According to Dr. John Nethers, professor of history and coordinator of AC History Career Day, high school history students seldom have the opportunity to participate in a history-oriented program in a college atmosphere. "Hopefully, this varied program will promote the professional growth of Ashland's students and stimulate interest in history and the social sciences among the high school participants," he said.

Student chairman of the program was Patricia Grogan, AC senior history major from Toledo.

NEWS BRIEFS

ROBERTSON NAMED PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

WHEATON, Ill.—Associated with NAE in Washington, D.C. for 14 years, Mr. Floyd Robertson will become Secretary of the Office of Public Affairs upon the retirement of Dr. Clyde W. Taylor December 31.

"We are very fortunate," said Dr. Paul Toms, NAE President, "that Mr. Robertson will care for the day-by-day operation in Washington. His wide experience, administrative skills and close working relationships with key officials in all branches of Government are invaluable assets in NAE's service to evangelicals across the country."

Robertson will also continue to serve as Executive Secretary of NAE's Chaplaincy Commission and General Secretary of the Christian Serviceman's Fellowship.

Floyd Robertson served 22 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in 1957. Among other responsibilities, he was administrative officer on the international planning team for NATO in Paris and worked in the Pentagon under three Chiefs of Naval Operations as Assistant Secretary for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. An active layman, he was one of the first Navigators trained under the late Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators.

NAE CONVENTION SET FOR APRIL 8-10

WHEATON, Ill.—The 38th Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals, set for Los Angeles, April 8-10, will draw top Christian leaders from across the country.

NAE's 1975 convention at the International Hotel, will offer a wide variety of practical input from nationally known authorities. Some 50 workshop sessions are planned for laypersons, pastors and church leaders on such areas as missions, stewardship, social concerns, evangelism, church growth, Christian education, broadcasting and world relief. Also scheduled are musical presentations, Bible teaching, business, fellowship and extensive exhibits.

Meeting concurrently with the convention will be NAE's affiliated organizations: the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, the National Association of Christian Schools, the National Sunday School Association, the National Religious Broadcasters, and the American Association of Evangelical Students.

a book review ---



Several years ago the Brethren Church used "The Late Great Planet Earth" by Hal Lindsay as a resource book for the Cross Country Conference. Later when I saw he had written another book "Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth" I assumed that it was another prophetic study but this time relative to actual happenings in the occult today. It was and it wasn't.

When I began to read the first chapters I felt my assumption was correct. The first chapter deals with happenings today, the second with people and the next with some history (back before creation). But woven into the middle chapters and as a theme of the later chapters, the author begins to present the line of defense in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus the book not only contains history and current reporting but also some very pertinent thoughts on the personal future of the reader.

Although the volume covers quite a bit of territory, I found it both interesting and helpful. Even though the defense described is biblical, and one only has to read the New Testament to learn the method, it was thought provoking to see it presented again in this easily read book.

"Satan is Alive and Well on Planet Earth" is published by Zondervan and is available through the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstore and other Christian Book Stores.

The Bookworm



1975 CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE 1975

Theme: Church Growth

Study book: The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert E. Coleman

Cost: textbook—$1.50 study guide—$1.00

Additional books for reference:

How To Grow A Church—Donald McGavran & Win Arn

Hope For Your Church—Harold L. Fickett Jr.

(All of the above books can be purchased from the Brethren Publishing Company bookstore.)

Our denomination is concerned with "Church Growth." Our 1975 C.C.C. study book is good reading on that subject; for Jesus is the example that is set before us.

The Cross Country Conference has been a part of our denomination since 1957, being sponsored by the National Brethren Ministerial Association. The purpose is for each local congregation to share in studying the same materials during the same period of time, thus giving us more of a "One-ness in Christ."

The suggested dates for study are January 12 - March 16, 1975. (Remember that Easter falls on March 30) The suggested time for study is on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. (Each congregation makes their own decision.) This book and study guide are easily divided into study sessions, and the materials can be applied to each local congregation.

We trust that each local congregation will be a part of this year's Cross Country Conference and that all who share in this will be blessed for doing so.

Eugene Beekley
Ralph Gibson
William Brady
Alvin Grumbling, ch.

World Religious News in Review

LAUSANNE COMMITTEE WILL DETERMINE CONGRESS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

HONOLULU (EP)—A 48-member "continuing committee" has been formed to determine what organization structure or fellowship will result from the mid-summer International Congress on World Evangelization held in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Forty-six Christian leaders from 28 nations have already been named, with Honorary Congress Chairman Billy Graham elected to serve as interim chairman, according to Anglican Bishop A. Jack Dain of Sydney. The Rev. Mr. Dain was executive chairman of the July event in Lausanne.

Two more will be named soon to help carry out the objective of fulfilling the wishes of the congress as brought to light by the reports of the strategy and theology groups and the final version of the Lausanne Covenant.

Included on the committee are Donald E. Hoke, director of the Lausanne Congress, and Paul E. Little who was its program director. Mr. Little has accepted a three-month appointment as executive secretary.

The remaining two members will be chosen Jan. 20 in Mexico City when the committee will meet for the first time.

'SENSE OF SHAME' AMERICA'S MOST SERIOUS LACK—ERIC HOFFER

SAN FRANCISCO (EP)—The loss of shame in American society threatens the survival of civilized society, according to philosopher and former longshoreman Eric Hoffer.

"Shame is more uniquely human than guilt," he wrote in the New York Times. "There is more fear in guilt than in shame, and animals know fear. We blanch with guilt as we do with fear, but we blush with shame."

Hoffer points out that in the United States at present adults are unable to socialize their young, making it possible for juveniles to follow their bents, act on their impulses, and materialize their fantasies. The result, he says, has been a youth culture flauntingly shameless.

"You see well-fed, good-looking youngsters, obviously the sons and daughters of well-to-do parents, beg in the streets, pet in public, line up for pornographic movies and vie with each other in taking advantage of every opening for skulduggery offered by a social system based on trust."

Worse yet, Hoffer observed, is an adult majority which is not ashamed of its cowardice . . . workers who are not ashamed of negligence . . . manufacturers who market shoddy products . . . and rich people who dodge taxes.

"We have become a shameless society."

MEMBER OF SNAKE-HANDLING SECT IS BITTEN, DIES AT SERVICE

EAST LYNN, W. Va. (EP)—A 28-year-old man whose father-in-law was fatally bitten by a snake in a religious service died in the same way here.

Lonnie Richardson died less than 24 hours after he was struck by a rattlesnake he handled during a Sunday night service at the Jesus Church here, a Wayne County community.

His father-in-law, Tallmade Adkins, was bitten and died last August. Both were members of a cult that practices snake-handling.

No legal charges were expected in the death of Mr. Richardson. West Virginia has no law against snake-handling.

REPORT ON MIGRANT WORKER CONDITIONS: 'SHOCKING, DEPLORABLE, SUBHUMAN'

ST. PAUL, Minn. (EP)—The Minnesota Board of Health has been told that conditions for migrant workers in the state, particularly in the Moorhead area, are "shocking, deplorable and subhuman."

Furthermore, growers who fail to bring their migrant camps up to standard should lose their permits or be prosecuted if they continue to house workers in present sub-standard facilities, a committee, which visited the Moorhead area, recommended.

During the tour by six members of the Minnesota Board of Health, in addition to representatives of religious bodies and the Minnesota Migrant Council, one farmer ordered them off his property, and another used abusive language, according to Michael Keable, health board vice president.

"Only one of the many farms we visited had migrant quarters fit for human habitation," said another committee member, Bridget Coleman. "The growers have better housing for their machinery and better barns for their animals."

SWEDEN'S YOUNG PEOPLE SHOW MORE INTEREST IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

STOCKHOLM (EP)—Young people in Sweden are showing a great interest in religious education and church services, according to findings of a study released by the Central Board of the Swedish State Church (Lutheran).

Although studies have found that Swedish youths have been dropping out of secular schools and showing decreasing interest in schoolwork, they are gladly taking two hours of religious instructions per week. One interesting finding of the church study is that young people find a great attraction in the "quietude and stillness" that are found in both church services and religious studies in confirmation classes.

WOMAN, 2 BLACKS NAMED TO BOARD OF BILLY GRAHAM ASSOCIATION

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has added the first woman and the first two blacks to its 26-member board of directors.

The woman director is Mrs. Mary Crowley, a Dallas, Texas, business woman who has been active in Graham crusades there, and who is a member of Dallas' First Baptist Church.

The blacks are two ministers, the Rev. Edward Hill of Mount Zion Baptist Church in the Watts section of Los Angeles, and the Rev. John Williams of St. Stephens Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Mr. Graham, in an interview at the windup of his Twin Cities' crusade in July 1973, during which he had an active "dialogue" with local black clergy, told a reporter he was recommending that at least two blacks be added to the association board.

CALVES, SCHEDULED FOR SLAUGHTER IN PROTEST, GIVEN TO YOUTH CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS (EP)—More than 100 calves, scheduled to be slaughtered at Curtis, Wis., in a farmers' protest against feed costs and falling prices for cattle, hogs and milk, have been given to a Christian youth center ranch in northern Minnesota.

The Rev. Walter L. Battle said they were donated by the National Farmers Organization (NFO), which had organized the protest. The first animals were to be shipped to the youth center at Ball Club, Minn. The center is operated by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Gospel Temples (House of Refugee). Mr. Battle is pastor of the St. Paul Church and his wife, Willa Lee, is pastor of the Minneapolis church. Both congregations are predominantly black.

BILLY GRAHAM ELECTED TO HEAD CONTINUATION COMMITTEE FOR LAUSANNE CONGRESS

HONOLULU (EP)—Evangelist Billy Graham, after being appointed here as interim chairman of a "continuation committee" for the International Congress on World Evangelization, announced he will call a meeting of 48 newly elected members of the committee Jan. 20 in Mexico City.

Donald Hoke, director of the congress held in Lausanne, Switzerland, July 16-25 this summer, said the 48 representatives to the new continuation committee were chosen from nominations made by the 3,000 who attended the Lausanne congress.

The committee voted to publish a 1,000-page book of every address given at the congress, in three languages; six booklets in English for use in discussion groups; a commentary on the Lausanne Covenant for study groups; and a 150-page book to summarize results of the congress for laymen. They will also produce a documentary film for use in churches that will show the congress at work.

EVANGELICALS LAUNCH BICENTENNIAL EVANGELISM THRUST

CHICAGO (EP)—A three-day meeting at O'Hare Inn Dec. 2-4 has been called by the Evangelization Forum to plan evangelistic strategy for the 1976 bicentennial.

Participants will include Dr. Oswald J. Hoffmann, speaker for the worldwide "Lutheran Hour"; Dr. Myron S. Augsburger, president Eastern Mennonite College; Dr. Paul Benjamin, director of the National Church Growth Research Center in Washington, D.C.; Rev. Charles W. Denton, coordinator, evangelism, Assemblies of God; Rev. John F. DeVries, director of Bible Studies for the World Home Bible League; Rev. Joe Hale, evangelism staff member, United Methodist Church, Nashville; Robert L. Hart, pastor, Central Baptist Church, Naperville, Ill.; Dr. Erwin J. Kolb, director of evangelism, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Paul E. Little, Inter-Varsity staff member and program chairman, International Congress on World Evangelization; Dan MacKenzie, Religious Affairs Coordinator, American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Washington, D.C.; Rev. J. Allan Petersen, president, Family Concern, Inc.; Dr. Ted A. Raedeke, director, Project Philip Program, World Home Bible League; Mrs. Virginia Law Shell, president, the Tapfer Co., El Monte, Calif.; Dr. John W. Williams, pastor, St. Stephen Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.; Rev. Robert F. Yawberg, president, Prayer-a-Gram Foundation; Victor B. Nelson, coordinator of the Evangelization Forum sponsoring the meeting.

The goal of the Forum is a united effort among Christian leaders to assist in the evangelization of the U.S.A., an evangelical thrust during the Bicentennial. The Forum is described as a "follow-up of the 1974 Lausanne Congress."

CHURCH THIEF FINDS HIS CONSCIENCE

OKLAHOMA CITY (EP)—Things began happening here after the Rev. Ron Ritchie, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, suggested that his congregation pray for the thief who took a $1,500 set of children's handbells.

Shortly after the service, the thief phoned to say his wife had told him the children had worked for a year to raise the money to buy the bells.

"I'll bring them back," he promised, and he did.

BRITON BELIEVES 'MORALS, NOT ECONOMY,' WORST ENEMY

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (EP)—The problems of the world are not economic, they're moral, an attorney from London, England, told the Christian Business Men's Club here.

Addressing a full house at the bimonthly meeting of the Tennessee business men, Ted Hubbard added that "My years as a Christian have proved the Bible to be true."

"England is in a terrible state," the speaker admitted. Some of the "heaviest taxes in the world" and the "unstable government" he saw as the result of throwing out the Bible, God and Christ from the lives of the people.

"That's our biggest problem," he said.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY NEWS RELEASE

U. B. S. MEET IN WARSAW

NEW YORK—A record World Service Budget of $10.9 million was approved for 1975 by the executive committee of the United Bible Societies at its meeting in Warsaw, Poland, the American Bible Society announces.

The United Bible Societies is a fellowship of 56 national Bible Societies, of which the American Bible Society is one.

The money will be used to finance the translation, production and distribution of Scriptures, without doctrinal note or comment, to people everywhere in a language they can understand and at a price they can afford.

The Warsaw meeting marked the first time that the executive committee of this 25-year-old world fellowship of Bible Societies had met in an Eastern European country. For nearly 160 years there has been uninterrupted and active Bible Society work in Poland.

Currently two new Bible translations are under way in that country. Also, a shop, well-stocked with the Scriptures, is maintained on one of the main streets of Warsaw. Scripture distribution in Poland in 1973 totaled 148,990, an increase of 16 per cent over the previous year.

Committee members were welcomed to the Polish city by representatives of the churches in Poland. A delegation of the committee was able to discuss Bible Society work in Poland and in the world with the Government Minister of Cults, Dr. K. Kakol.

The 1975 World Service Budget allots 24.2 per cent of the total of $10.9 million to be spent in Africa, 24.3 per cent in Asia and the Pacific, 23.4 per cent in the Americas, and 11.5 per cent in Europe. The remaining 16.6 per cent will be used to finance 342 translations projects throughout the world. These sums represent the deficit remaining in the various countries after local contributions and returns on sales have been received.

Funds for this worldwide Scripture program were pledged by 15 Bible Societies which are able to contribute to the global budget of the United Bible Societies after meeting all their local costs. The American Bible Society contributes approximately half of the total for the World Service Budget.

Translation, production and distribution costs in countries where Bible Society work is self supporting are not included in the World Service Budget.

Inflation, which is rampant throughout the whole world, has greatly increased the costs of paper, printing and transport and makes it imperative that larger support than ever be found to enable the translation, production and distribiution of the Scriptures to continue without interruption.

The 56 member Societies of the United Bible Societies conduct their work in more than 150 countries and territories. As of the end of 1973, the United Bible Societies report that since the invention of printing at least one book of the Bible has been published by Bible Societies and various other organizations in 1,526 languages and dialects.

Scripture distribution by the United Bible Societies in 1973 included nearly five million complete Bibles, 15 million New Testaments and 229 million single books of the Bible or selected passages.

Slightly under $1 million of the new budget will be used for the Good News for New Readers program, a 12-year project which was launched in September 1973 aimed at publishing Scriptures for many of the 800 million illiterates in the world who now are learning to read and write. Through these simple, easy to read publications new readers will be able to learn, often for the first time, the Good News about Jesus Christ. By faithfully reading these Scripture Literacy Selections, new readers will also steadily improve their reading skills until they at last are able to read a Bible or New Testament in one of the common language translations now available to millions throughout the world.

Surviving victims of the devastating hurricane in Honduras are now receiving the comforting word of God along with their clothing and food allotments.

The American Bible Society shipped, via air cargo, 30,000 portions of Romans and 5,000 New Testaments for Protestants and Roman Catholics in response to an urgent call for them from Saul Gomez, secretary of the Honduras Bible Society.

Ever since the hurricane struck late in September the Honduras Bible Society headquarters in Tegucigalpa, little damaged, has been a haven for many left destitute by the storm. Bible House has been a center for the collection and distribution of food, clothing and money to aid the victims.

Mr. Gomez heads a committee, involving more than 20 denominations and organizations, which carries on this ministry of relief to survivors. In time of sorrow and disaster people need material relief and cry out for the Word of God which gives them reassurance and support.

The supply of Scriptures in the Honduras Bible House was soon depleted. Through Alberto J. Carcamo, secretary of the United Bible Societies regional center in Mexico City, the appeal for help was directed to the American Bible Society which responded immediately. The American Bible Society is one of the 56 national Bible Societies that comprise the United Bible Societies membership.

It is through the generous contributions of churches, other organizations and individuals that the American Bible Society, a nonprofit organization, is able to answer emergency appeals for Scriptures from victims of disasters, such as the violent, cyclonic storm that hit Honduras.

Since its organization in 1816, the American Bible Society has had as its threefold purpose the translation, publication and distribution of the Scriptures, without doctrinal note or comment, to people everywhere in a lanugage they can understand and at a price they can afford.

TRUE RICHES



A humble man of meager means a miser
chanced to meet;
He simply asked about his wealth and was his
joy complete.
The miser told him how each day before he
went to rest,
He paused to look upon the gold with which
his life was blessed.
And after that—that daily look he'd softly
walk away
Content with what his eyes had seen until
another day.
The poor man stopped to think it o'er and then
made this request,
Could he but once behold that gold? He nothing
would molest.
The miser promised he could see his gold
that very day,
If he at sunset would return, he'd show to
him the way.
So when the sun had fully set they made
their solemn way
With candle lit, the gold to see, for now
'twas close of day.
While gazing on that store of gold the miser's
eyes did glow,
The poor man looked and deep within a thought
in him did grow.
And soon he to the miser spoke; nor lifted
up his eyes,
And what he to the rich man said revealed that
he was wise.

For this is what to him he said, "Now I'm as
rich as you
For I've beheld your treasure great; that's what
each day you do.
And when we turn and make our way, the
treasure out of view,
Since you but look and do no more, I'm just as
rich as you.
For though you're blest with such great wealth,
You're poor as poor can be
The joy this gold could somewhere bring
Your miser eyes can't see.
For someday you must leave this world; and
all your wealth behind,
Your eyes closed fast to all your gold, no comfort
then you'll find.
But if while you have life and breath
This gold for God you'd spent,
You'd treasures have laid up in Heaven
And joy that never ends."



(A Stewardship Devotion given
by Pauline Smith)
Published in North
Manchester Newsletter



THE MULTIPLIED MINISTRY



by Peter E. Roussak
Minister of Music and Educatior
The Brethren Church
New Lebanon, Ohic

Since coming to New Lebanon I've been probing the meaning, nature, and purpose of ministry to gain a clearer view of how I fit into that picture. I'm sure every lay person asks that question one time or another. We all need to learn or be reminded of the nature of ministry.

I've been interested in what kind of concept most people have of ministry; not **the** ministry, but just **ministry!** This past spring I took a survey in our four adult Sunday School classes. The following directives were included in the Opinionnaire:

I. Check one of the following statements
 _____ Lay persons are members of the people of God called to a total ministry of witness and service in the world.
 _____ Lay persons are those who are ministered to by the clergy who are the true church.
 _____ Lay persons are people in part-time Christian service.
 _____ Lay persons are nonordained Christians whose function is to help the clergy do the work of the church.
II. Why did you check the above statement?
III. When you think of the word **ministry** what thoughts come to mind? What does ministry mean to you?

Of the thirty seven participants thoroughly completing the opinionnaire, twenty-three chose the first statement concerning lay persons. All the remaining persons checked the fourth statement. For meanings of the term ministry the following items were written:

The work of all the called-out ones (1)
Administration and coordination of programs (1)
Salvation (1)
The Pastor or other full-time worker (13)
One who teaches God's truths (4)
Witnessing (7)
Serve or give oneself to others in Christian love (7)
Using one's talents (2)
Live a better life (1)

Two interesting reasons for choosing the fourth statement about lay persons included the ideas that a minister must have a college education and that Christians are non-ordained **ministers.** I feel the person making the latter remark has keen insight into the work of the people of God. As born again believers we're all ministers whether ordained or not.

To fully understand the work of ministry it is necessary to understand what the **church** is. In several passages of Scripture (Romans 12:4-5, I Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 4:12, and Colossians 1:8) we learn that the church, that is, all the baptized believers, is called the body of Christ. Arnold Bittlinger has said that "Christ is today present in the world in the form of His Church. He works today in no other way than through the members of his body. All members of the body of Christ are of equal value."[1] Also, Dr. J. Allen Miller has stated that the "administration of the affairs of the Kingdom in this age in entrusted to the church. The church is thus the medium on earth through which Christ works (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 3:10-12 4:8-11). The work itself is accomplished through the Ministry of the Holy Spirit. Thus we may say that all the interests of the kingdom of God o earth are entrusted to the Church through which the Holy Spirit works the accomplishment o God's will through Jesus Christ."[2]

Therefore, the Church is the agency through which His work is done. The Greek word used fo church in the New Testament is **ekklesia**; it means a congregation, or assembly of the called-out-ones the whole number of regenerated persons united to one another and to Christ by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, "there is no basic difference between the call of God to live as a Christian when it comes to an ordained ministe and that call when it comes to any other person It is true that the ordained minister is called to a specialized work and the special preparation fo that work. In the early church there was no clear distinction made between ordained ministry and the laity. The apostles and others were set apart for their function and work, not because of a position in an ecclesiastical structure."[3] Therefore it is not just the clergy which make up the true church. Each believer is a part of the body o Christ and has a service to render.

I think it necessary to define what Dr. Miller termed the "affairs of the Kingdom." In this mean

ing we gain a clearer view of the work of the body, the affairs we must tend to; in short, the work of the ministry. The word used for ministry in the New Testament is diakonia, which literally means service. But service for what? II Corinthians 5:8 gives us a clue: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." We have been reconciled; therefore we must be the agents of God, through the Church, for the reconciliation of others. Dr. Robert S. Paul terms this a "reconciliation that would reach out to embrace man in all his relationships, to resolve the estrangements between brother and brother (Matt. 5:24), between husband and wife (I Cor. 7:11), between nations and races (Eph. 2:13-16), and indeed between man and the whole cosmic order (Col. 1:20). The very essence of ministry is in the service which it renders to the church," the body of Christ.[4]

So the church with its people is called to serve the world as the agency of reconciliation, of redemption. And what is the ministry the clergy performs? All of us need to be aware of the clear Scriptural teaching here. Indeed, I find many a minister does not hold to the Scripture, but engages in those activities the laity could and should be performing. Ephesians 4:11-12 gives us the answer. The role of the minister is that of "equipping the saints for the work of the ministry." I believe the work of ministry is helping the priesthood of believers discover the gifts God has given them; then channeling these abilities into active service for God. "Ministry is to give direction to the laity for worship, nurture, and work. As such, ministry is united in effort and objective but divided in responsibility."[5] "The ministry of the church is to re-present Christ to the whole community of faith, so that the total membership of the church may corporately represent Christ to the world."[6] The chief task of the clergyman is to equip his people for their ministry. The purpose of this ministry is that the people shall be trained and outfitted for their work in the church and in the world. The 'preacher' is not supposed to do your work, lay person. You must carry your share! The Pastor is there to care for you and to enable you to share in the work of the ministry. The whole which is a ministry—the ministry of Christ himself continued through his people that every single Christian person must, in the very nature of the case, be a 'minister,' and that the group of full-time, paid servants of the church so commonly known as the 'ministers' is really a ministry-within-the-ministry of the church as a whole."[7]

I think it can be safely said at this point, therefore, that the clergy act as ministers of ministers, teachers of teachers, enablers, equippers. Through this process the ministry becomes self sustaining and its effectiveness multiplied.

The concept of a multiplied ministry is quite biblical. As a matter of fact it gives us a **method** for ministry we may not be sharing enough. In Acts 6:1-7 we read the account of the multiplication of the number of disciples. Stop for a moment and read those verses.

After reading I think you'll agree the apostles knew what they were doing. After the murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews seven additional men were set apart for work. These men were chosen to do work not directly related to the preaching of the Word. And yet this illustrates a principle we need to grasp for the ministry of our complex society. **Delegation of responsibility** was the **method** for the ministry. It still is. Because of the heavy work load in New Lebanon, the congregation chose to call an additional staff person. And while my duties are not always directly related to the pastoral and preaching functions of the Senior Minister, I perform those duties which enable the Pastor to concentrate on the work for which he was primarily called. We all must share in the work. We all must be willing to share the work load. I'm convinced the results will be the same as it was for the apostles. "And the word of God increased (grew), and the number of disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly (Acts 6:7)." The apostle Paul continued in this line of thinking as well when he said; "I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So, then, neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth, but God that giveth the increase. For we are laborers together with God (I Cor. 3: 6, 7, 9)." There's a place for everyone to serve.

For many years Clarence E. Power of Marietta, Georgia has been confined to his bed, much of the time unable to move any part of his body. One day he conceived the idea of a special "Shut-Ins Day" and inaugurated plans to make it an international affair. The movement took hold quickly, and now the first Sunday in June of each year is set aside to visit the sick and shut-ins, to send them cards and flowers and otherwise bring cheer to this great number of persons. Mr. Power, who is now able to sit up in bed is usually surrounded by his tracts, greeting cards, magazines, telephone, typewriter, correspondance list, letters, and his Bible, and is a happy man despite his affliction. If Mr. Power could start a movement that has become such a blessing to thousands, is there any Christian who cannot find a place of service if he tries honestly?

Lets multiply the efforts of the ministry by having each Christian do his part. When your Pastor calls on you for work in the church consider seriously accepting that responsibility. He probably sees in you talents and abilities you may not recognize yourself. What a challenge the church has in these days to be the agency of a multiplied ministry of reconciliation.

FOOTNOTES

[1] Arnold Bittlinger, **Gifts and Ministries** (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1973), 20.

[2] J. Allen Miller, **Christian Doctrine—Lectures and Sermons** (Ashland, Ohio: The Brethren Publishing Company, 1946), 50.

[3] R. Eugene Sterner, **You Have A Ministry** (Anderson, Indiana: Warner Press, 1963), 11.

[4] Robert S. Paul, **Ministry** (Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1965), 87, 119.

[5] Marvin T. Judy, **The Multiple Staff Ministry** (Nashville, Tennessee: Abington Press, 1969), 30.

[6] Paul, **Ministry,** 81.

[7] Sterner, **You Have A Ministry,** 10.

THE MAMA ZEBEDEE COMPLEX

D. Bruce Lockerbie is a teacher at the Stony Brook School, Stony Brook, New York. His most recent book is THE LIBERATING WORD: ART AND THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL (Eerdmans).

by D. Bruce Lockerbie

We live in an age of hucksterism. We're subject to the Big Sell. We're constantly being made An Offer We Can't Refuse. Usually in the name of progress. Often at the urging of a mermaid, a nymph, or some other sex goddess. Millions of dollars are spent every day in Madison Avenue advertising agencies designing new ways to lure consumers to the marketplace.

Some hucksters sell **products**—mere things, gadgets, gleaming and shining, baubles to titillate our senses, luxuries to stroke our egos. The newness of it all, the sheer desirability, the positive assurance that possession brings contentment. Most of us find the pitch irresistible.

Other hucksters peddle **plans**—gimmicks, short cuts, pipedreams, fantasies, will-o-wisps — all guaranteed to transfuse our anaemic bloodstreams with a fresh flow of modernity; to galvanize our cortical impulses with shockwaves of contemporaneity; to propell us from **was** to **is** and beyond to an "outa sight" **can be!**

Still other hucksters promote **people** — "hot properties," as show biz argot puts it. Plastic dolls like Linda Lovelace or Garry Glitter, willing to be drained of their humanity, their moral dignity as persons, and transformed into zombies without souls. Their agents and promoters, feeding off them like lamprey eels, demand ever more bizarre exploitations of their prey because "You gotta give the public what they want!" And what does this mindless public want? Not genuine beauty or disciplined talent, not authentic courage or character, but a sense of the finite, a certitude that this too shall pass away; an idol destined in its own time to crumble and decay.

All this we deplore as Christians and turn away from tawdry fan magazines, "Top Forty" lists, and other gossamer filaments of pop glamour. We turn away, that is, to indulge in a meretricious star system of our own, complete with its network of agents, promoters, hucksters, PR men, freak show barkers, and ten-percenters of every stripe and smell.

This lust for top billing is as old as Christianity itself. Simon of Samaria, the Harry Houdini of his time, needed something to dress up his act. He saw what he wanted in the miracles being performed by Philip and others in the name of Jesus of Nazareth. He was so impressed, in fact, that we read in Acts 8 he actually confessed belief in Christ and was baptized. Then he made his move, offering Philip and Peter a piece of the action in exchange for their secret—and received in return an apostolic curse!

The Simons, the Elmer Gantrys, the Marjoes are still among us. But we tend to congratulate ourselves, as sophisticated evangelicals, at being able to spot them for the shill artists they are. Yet there's a different and far more prevalent danger to be avoided. Even before Simon showed up, one of those perennial stage mothers was making a nuisance of herself. You know the type—pushy women who stand in the wings and shove their kids out into the limelight they really crave for themselves. She was just an ordinary Jewish mama, and all she wanted was for her babies to be Number One—**and** Two! Her name was Mama Zebedee.

Remember? Jesus and his followers were making their last trek up to Jerusalem. He knew what would happen there, and he'd been trying to make it as plain as possible to the disciples. But they were too thick to understand. At the very moment he's telling them about mockery and humiliation, they've got nothing on their minds but prestige and patronage. They're going to be Big Shots in the Kingdom of God!



Whether James and John put their mother up to asking Jesus or whether it was her own idea, I don't know. But in Matthew 20:20-21, we hear her say, "I want you to give orders that in your kingdom my two sons here may sit next to you, one at your right, and the other at your left."

Some nerve! No wonder the rest of the boys got sore at James and John. But most of us are just like Mama Zebedee. We also have our babies—our special programs, our pet projects, our Big Deal—and we want it to be Number One!



The Largest Sunday School in America
the biggest foreign mission budget
the most converts
the biggest membership roll
The bestselling book
the top recording
the longest advance bookings
The most selective admissions policy
the most earned doctorates on the faculty
the fullest student body
the highest ranked basketball team
the most famous alumni
the largest endowment
The best broadcast ratings
the most quotable quotes
the largest paid-up subscription list
the most column inches of advertising
The most handshakes with foreign dignitaries
the most tons of relief goods distributed
and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on and on until the worthy purpose of all this effort has been dissipated in an orgy of egoism.

Ironically, that worthy purpose is common to all evangelicals. To put it crudely, the product we're selling, in one form or another, is ostensibly the same: a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ, whether by salvation, commitment in service and stewardship, dynamic renewal, deeper understanding, or whatever other phase of spiritual Body growth applies. More often than not, however, the product takes a back seat to the package.

In America, the package may be a **personality**—tall, tanned, and Texan, with a voice like thunder; in other words, a cross between Matt Dillon and the prophet Elijah.

"Everyone in this business," say a media expert in the headquarters of a major denomination, "knows that you build your broadcast around a personality. If people like his looks and the sound of his voice, maybe they'll stay tuned to listen to what he says."

Or the package may be a **program,** something novel, something imaginative, but definitely something on a grand scale. If it's been tried before, forget it! If it's low-key and low-profile, who needs it? If it isn't global in scope, it won't catch on. The program has to excite people with its **BIGNESS!**

When there's a famine in the Sahara, you can't consider concentrating your relief efforts on a single area; you can't set your goal at feeding only 100 children a day and doing that well. You've got to take on the whole continent!

When floods and disease ravage Bangladesh, you can't pause to find out what the Bengali diet and tradition will accept. Just dump your tons of wheat on the Chittagong docks and let them rot there—because the people eat only rice. But tell your contributors how greatly the Lord is using them (and you!) to feed the hungry.

The same goes for evangelism, broadcasting, pastoral and psychological counseling, church growth, book publishing, recordings, and every other facet of our lives—including estate planning and retirement to a Christian version of Leisure Village. Unfortunately, the mass of evangelical Christians in America are naive. They have no idea that we're all being manipulated by communications experts, hard-sell promoters, and soft-sell wheeler-dealers. Those who read the leading evangelical magazines may catch whiff of Christian commercialism in the ads for Holy Land tours or in some of the conflicting panaceas for faltering youth ministries offered by balding specialists in teenaged evangelism.

How God gets the glory in all this isn't always clear. But this much is clear. We need to restore integrity (which means **wholeness**) to our evangelical witness. We need to **be** who we are, we need to tell the truth. We need to end the sham of book jacket blurbs being written by hirelings but attributed to prominent Christians who've never read the book. We need to stop ghost-writing autobiographies. We need to stop deceiving people into thinking their money goes to the poor and destitute, when as much as half of it gets diverted for "administrative expenses."

This is basic honesty. Beyond this, however, we need to face up to the fact that much of our energy is spent in overlapping with somebody else's work. Perhaps the Lausanne Covenant will help at this point. In that document, probably for the first time, evangelicals have admitted that "our testimony has sometimes been marred by sinful individualism and needless duplication."

If some other writer can do the job better than I can, I've got to acknowledge it. If some other singer can sing better—if some other relief organization can distribute more effectievly—if some other school or college has a better curriculum or faculty—if somebody else is being used by God in ways we're not, we've got to say so. Then we ought to find what He's got for us to do and do it.

We've got to stop puffing ourselves and our favorities. We've got to get rid of the Mama Zebedee complex.

CHEEP ADVICE



Constructive criticism is when I criticize you. **Destructive criticism is when you criticize me.**

Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will create the fact.—William James

As a rule, there is no surer way to the dislike of men than to behave well where they have behaved badly.—Lew Wallace

Fire Prevention Week—Have your soul checked before it's too late.

Beware of half truths—You may have the wrong half.

A lady was somewhat disturbed to find herself seated at the left of her host instead of at the right, where she thought she should have been. "I suppose," she said, "It isn't always easy for you to seat people in their proper places."

"Oh," said the host, "I find that those who matter don't mind, and those who mind don't matter."

from LeTourneau Now

If you come home dog tired maybe it's because you have been growling all day.

Maybe the nickel won't buy much any more but a dime still serves as a pretty good screwdriver occasionally.

Careful grooming may make you look 20 years younger, but it will not fool a flight of stairs.

from the Quote Rack

Still water and still religion freeze quickest.

LAFF-A-LITTLE

A bride served baked ham to her husband and he asked why she had cut the ends off, "That's the way Mother always did it" was the reply. When his mother-in-law came on a visit and he asked her why she cut the ends off the ham she answered, "That's the way Mother always did it." On a visit to grandma's house the young man asked, "Why do you cut off the ends of the ham?" She answered, "Why, to get it in the pan, of course."

For some, counting calories is a weigh of life.

Some people really like to be different.

They prefer to sit in the front of the bus, the rear of the church and want to drive down the middle of the road.

Coach, handing out equipment—"These are knee and hip protectors to protect your knees and hips; these are chest and shoulder guards to protect your chest and shoulders; and this is a helmet—it's to keep your hair out of your eyes."

Wayne Heights Highlights

The most expensive four-wheeled vehicle to operate today doesn't even use fuel. It's the grocery cart.

"The fall of man in the Garden of Eden was not caused by the apple in the tree, but rather by the 'Pair' on the ground."

Wayne Heights Highlights

THE GOOD AND BAD OF IT

Hell has it's good points
If you plan on going there;
I can list just a few of them—
This with you I'd like to share.
There will be no hypocrites
If you plan to go to Hell;
Everyone will act alike
You will like it very well.
In Hell there are no churches
Is another point you ought to know;
If you have no time for church today
You may be satisfied to go.
In Hell there'll be no preaching,
What relief to your ears!
No more hearing of salvation
And Our Lord—the One who cares.
But then there are some bad points
That we cannot neglect:
If you think we have pollution now
'Twill be worse there—don't forget!
And the noise of the weeping
And the gnashing of the teeth—
It will do something to you
When everyone there crieth.
And then when you get there
You may desire to die;
But death will flee from you
No matter how hard you try.
But even with the good points
It's not good enough for me;
For Heaven is a better place
Where I'll spend Eternity.

Ruth DeLozier

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NEW BOOKS

The Family Album, compiled by Arthur and Nancy DeMoss, 1975 edition. A. J. Holman. 177 pages. $6.95.

WOODSY OWL, the anti-pollution spokesbird for the U.S. Forest Service says:

When you take photographs, pick up used film packs. The packs form litter and some chemicals in the packs can poison animals.

The Earth and it resources belong of right to its people.

Gifford Pinchot



PSC

WOODSY OWL FOR

NATURAL BEAUTY!

We just can't depend on the other guy to keep our outdoors beautiful. It's up to each and every one of us to prevent sight pollution and to make America a better place to live. For ways you can help, send for Woodsy Owl's anti-pollution poster. It's yours free when you write Woodsy Owl, Forest Service, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C. 20250

And remember, give a hoot, don't pollute.
Don't be a dirty bird, no matter where you go.

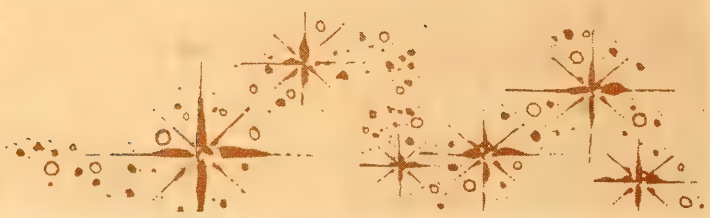
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The Brethren
EVANGELIST



Luke 12:2

Publication Day Offering Issue

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MEMBER EPA EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

NOTES and COMMENTS



THERE IS STILL TIME TO TAKE AD VANTAGE OF THE BONUS BOO OFFER AND CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIO RATE OF $4.00 PER YEAR FOR TH BRETHREN EVANGELIST.

The last issue of THE BRETHREN EVAN GELIST contained the information under Note and Comments that effective January 1, 1975 th subscription rate would be raised to $5.00 per yea and $4.50 per year to 100% churches. We wis to give every one who wishes to present someon with a gift subscription and those whose renewa date falls in January to have the opportunity t receive the benefit of this offer:

If payment is received by December 31, 197 the current rate of $4.00 per year and $3.50 t 100% churches will be applied.



From

The Brethren Publishing Company

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MISSIONARY NEWS

A DAY OF PRAISE

by Rev. Paul Tinkel

November 3, 1974 will be a day in the history of the Meadow Crest Brethren Church of Fort Wayne that will not be forgotten for a long time. This memorable day began at 9:30 a.m. with Sunday School for 38 men, women, youth, and children. They came with their umbrellas and rain coats for protection from the falling rain which at times was very heavy.

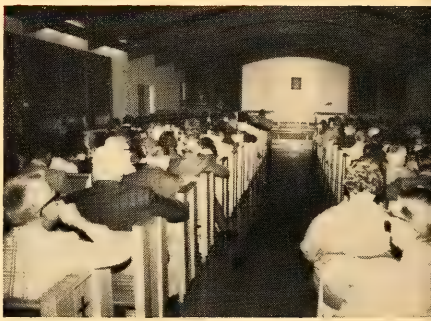
There seemed to be a note of **expectancy** in the looks and remarks made by those in attendance. Even the children showed an expression of **expectancy.** This **expectancy** grew, for by the end of the Sunday School hour, 61 people had gathered together for the Morning Worship. This was a real time of rejoicing for what the Lord hath given to His children. The inspirational special music by Mrs. Lester Hooley of our New Paris Brethren Church was followed with a very challenging message by Rev. Smith Rose.

Brethren and friends did come expecting, and God, through His Holy Spirit poured out His Blessings upon us.

About 45 people remained for the carry-in-fellowship meal at noon. Again, **expectancy** brought a wonderful time of fellowship for the Brethren gathered together in His wonderful name.

There was a time for making last minute preparations for the afternoon Dedication Service. In the midst of what seemed to be the darkening clouds of a heavy rain fall, knowing well that Satan was doing and going to do everything he could to make this service a flop by bringing discouragement. Brethren and friends began pouring into the new Meadow Crest Brethren Church with many wonderful smiles and a real feeling of **expectancy** for this service.

As the pews began to fill, we began to bring extra chairs into the auditorium. These folding chairs were placed across the back, front, then down the middle isle, and even some were then seated in the choir section. **Expectancy,** yes, but Satan had tried his best to foil a great time of thanksgiving in the Lord. Praise the Lord, the church was filled and over flowing! This was only the beginning of the wonderful time of thanksgiving and dedication unto the Lord for what He has and is providing here in North East Fort Wayne.



Dedication Day for the new Fort Wayne Brethren Church

Expectancy, it was running high and when our pastor friend, Rev. St. Clair Benshoff, seated at the piano began playing, Heaven seemed to come down and we were in the middle!

After Dan Gray, our Minister to Youth read the Call to Worship, "Surely the Lord is in this place. This is none but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven . . . O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our Salvation.", the Brethren joined in singing, "To God Be the Glory," It was as if the sound could only be the host of Angels from on high. As this expecting group of God's people sang, "And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see," my mind wondered a bit . . . can it be greater than this when we see Jesus? I believe it will, but this group was enjoying the real, true blessing of the Lord. Praise His wonderful Name!

Real joy was in the voice of Mr. Richard Troup who moved to Fort Wayne from Elkhart in 1968 and with the help of his pastor, Rev. Charles Lowmaster, founded the work, gave the welcome. Following the welcome, greetings from 15 pastors of Brethren Churches in the Indiana District were



Sunday School on dedication day at Fort Wayne, Superintendent Richard Grubaugh presiding.

given. Mrs. Lester Hooley and Mrs. Dean Morehouse of New Paris filled the Church with several wonderful songs of inspiration.

Following a history of the Fort Wayne Brethren work by the founding pastor, Rev. Charles Lowmaster, the President of the Indiana District Mission Board, Rev. William Kerner, gave the action of the Board for the purchasing of the new property. He asked the Board Treasurer, Rev. Kenneth Howard to give a resume of the giving to this project. He reported that over $30,000 had been given in cash by the Indiana Brethren to this project. Also, the sale of the "house" church and parsonage has been made without selling through a realtor, and with the final closing of both properties, over $24,000 in equity has been applied to the new property. Surely God has been working in our midst and all the people said, "Amen!"

The presentation of the new church and parsonage was made by Mr. Merl Holden, then contact man from the District Mission Board for Fort Wayne, presenting keys to both the church and parsonage with Rev. and Mrs. Tinkel receiving them.

The Litany of Dedication was led by the pastor with the congregation and the Dedicatory Prayer was given by Rev. Smith Rose, Executive Secretary of Central Council of The Brethren Church. Again the presence of the Lord was felt following the Litany and Dedicatory Prayer as Mrs. Dean Morehouse sang, "Bless this House."

The Dedicatory Address was given by Mr. John Rowsey, Associate Secretary of the Missionary Board of The Brethren Church. Filled with the Holy Spirit as he spoke, as Peter of old, John left with all who were present a great challenge to move forward in the Lord for the winning of precious Souls. CHURCH GROWTH? YES!

The effects of this great day to both the Meadow Crest Brethren and all who were present will be felt for a long time. What were the effects of this day within the following week? One who said their faith wasn't great enough to stand at the Indiana District Conference to vote for the Mission Board to make arrangements for the purchase of the property said, "The day and spirit was so wonderful, please, I'm sorry I didn't have enough faith to vote for it at first!" Another, in a letter that crossed my desk yesterday from a college student, a member of our church wrote: "Yesterday was really neat. I was really challenged by Rev. Rose, John Rowsey, and all the other people who spoke and were there for the Dedication Service. I feel a BIG sense of responsibility that I have towards the other people in our church and the ones that we will come in contact with in the future that will come to our church. The Lord has done so much for us and it's only my duty and out of love and thankfulness that I in turn do all I can to help others know what God can do for them and what He's done for us. **Isn't it neat to think what's going to happen?"**

We must look forward and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the High calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14). The faith so many have had in providing for this work is a challenge to us all.

We come away from this special day on a "Spiritual High," but knowing, Satan will continue to do everything in this new, small congregation to bring discouragement or complete failure. When other, well founded congregations see an increase of 5, 15, 25, or maybe 50 souls won to the Lord within a year, it is difficult to be new in a community, not known by most people and grow, but the Lord has given and blessed in such a great way thus far—WE AS ALL THE OTHER BRETHREN MISSION CHURCHES NEED YOUR DAILY PRAYER SUPPORT!

I want to thank everyone who has had any part in the work here at Fort Wayne up to this date. For all who came and those who had part in the Dedication Service, for the Brethren Churches, their members and friends who have and will continue to give, both through the Indiana District Mission Board and those who will be helping through the new TEN DOLLAR CLUB call this coming January through June, 1975, we give our heartfelt Thanks.

We need your many prayers that the Lord will send dedicated workers to our Church. Any new mission church needs leaders, dedicated to the Lord to work in all capacities of the Church.

God is on His Throne and with your continued help and prayers, the Lord will have many Victories in Fort Wayne! "ISN'T IT NEAT TO THINK WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?"



Morning Worship service at Meadow Crest Brethren Church

REPORT FROM MALAYSIA



The waterfront in Penang



Heart of the commercial world in Penang

David and Jenny Loi arrived in Penang on October 28th after spending several weeks with their family in Sibu. They have found a small place to stay and below David reports with general information about this island where they will be working.

Here is some information about Penang. Penang was first founded when Captain Francis Light landed on the island on July 17th, 1786 to claim it as a British possession. A few days later, on August 10th the new settlement was named George Town.

The island was picked by Captain Light for its good, well protected natural harbor and it has been the major port for the entire port trade in West Malaysia and George Town is the second largest town.

Penang Island is mainly hilly except for the portion on which the city stands which appears to be a huge flat sand spit formed by the currents in the channel between the island and the mainland.

The island is 110 square miles in area and is roughly 13 miles by 9 miles wide at its widest point. The most recent estimates of population gave that of the Island as 457,745 and of the city itself 319,586.

The state of Penang also includes Province Wellesley which is on the mainland immediately opposite the island. Province Wellesley is 33 miles long and 8 miles wide being almost a rectangle. Its area of 280 square miles supports a mainly agricultural population of 316,959.

There are quite a few churches in Penang (Gospel Hall, Methodist, Baptist, Cathedral of the Assumption, Sweden Mission, Holy Spirit, The Immaculate Conception, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventist). There are also many Muslim and Pakistan mosques and Chinese temples.



A Penang wharf



Conference Center in Penang

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



LORD'S PRAYER REVIEW

By the time we had finished studying the phrases of the Lord's Prayer, the whole house reflected it. We had walls and bulletin boards, ceiling and floor featuring the words accompanied by pictures illustrating the meaning. On the final Sunday in October we directed the children to six different "phrase centers." At each of the centers we had posted cards with directions for them to follow that would bring to mind what they had experienced earlier.

CARD 1 was posted on the "Our Father" wall. Directions on the card were—"Go to the Prayer Garden. Think about God. What do you see that He has done? What do you see that He does every day? Tell Him what you think of Him."

I sat in the prayer garden for awhile and talked with Amy about what we saw. When I asked her why she thought God made the sky blue she replied, "Well, the trees and grass are green and the flowers are red and yellow. So He needed some blue."

CARD 2 on the "Kingdom Wall," read as follows:

"(1) Do something for someone today in Brethren House.

(2) Do this 'something' for someone to obey this rule of God's Kingdom: 'Do for others what you want them to do for you.' "

As each one finished his good deed, he recorded his name on a chart and then John placed a star after each name.

CARD 3 was placed on the wall beneath the "Bread Bulletin Board." It read,

"Read the book about **some children** who don't have what you do. (We have a book entitled, "Some Children Don't . . ."). Put your offering in the basket for bread for **others.** Look at the pictures of **some** people who don't have enough bread. Plan with Pastor Lersch. What can we do to help."

As the children came to Phil, he shared with them pictures and information about the work of WORLD RELIEF. Part of our offering each Sunday goes through this channel to reach the hungry and homeless in the world. As a member of the Board of Directors, Phil has visited many of these places in the Orient.

CARD 4 directed the children to the "forgiveness Booth" where they could think of the wrongs they had done others and ask God's forgiveness.

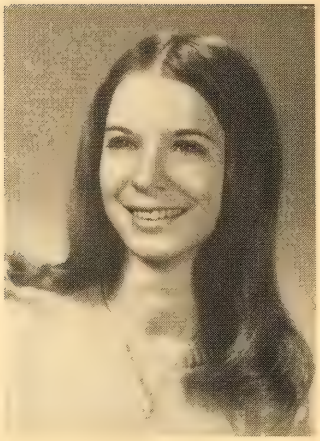
CARD 5 was placed on the floor beside the footprints that were labeled, LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION. On the card was this directive: "Read the words to the hymn, 'I Need Thee Every Hour.' Talk to Bonnie about these words."

CARD 6 was on the ceiling beside the large posters of KINGDOM, POWER, GLORY. This card read "Come together to **WORSHIP** and **PRAISE** God." When we did gather for this worship, we sang, repeated the words to the Lord's Prayer, and thought together about how we would express this prayer to deaf people.

—Jean







by Beth Gilmer

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN FACED WITH A PROBLEM?

Hey! Is anybody there??

According to my knowledge, there are only four Sisterhood groups in this entire denomination! (At least that is how many group registrations I have received.) I know there has to be more than that. If you haven't registered with me yet, please do so. Any mail will be joyfully received by me at 415 Claremont Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Have you ever felt like you needed a psychiatrist? I have—many times. When Adam and Eve first ate of the forbidden fruit, they sure created a lot of problems . . . problems I could do without! But that doesn't make them go away. Unfortunately, as long as this world lasts, there will be problems.

When problems come to non-Christians, they do amazing things to get rid of them. They drown themselves in alcohol till their minds aren't clear enough to even think any more. They smoke cartons of cigarettes in effort to take away their nervousness. They go out for a night on the town hoping to leave their problems behind. They get high on drugs. But the most amazing thing is that when they get done, their problems are still there! So they have gotten absolutely nowhere. Then, they have no place else to turn except to repeat the whole routine again. What a life!

What about the Christian? What do Christians do when faced with problems? Unfortunately, some take the same way out as the non-Christians do losing themselves in temporary pleasure. Others weep, cry on their friends shoulders, and spend most of their time WORRYING. Our Heavenly Father's heart must literally break sometimes. Why? Because He wants His children to come to **Him** with their problems and rest in Him knowing that He will take care of everything. Solving problems is God's business! In effect, He is in the psychiatry business. However, He not only listens to your problems, He solves them for you! What more can you ask? Why, then, do Christians try every other way to get rid of their problems?

What about you personally? Jesus is waiting with His arms open wide, pleading for you to come to Him with your difficulties. Believe it or not, HE LOVES YOU! He died for you, didn't He? Don't ignore Him. He's the best psychiatrist in the business. He can work miracles. Try Him; you'll like Him!

15 POSITIVE TESTS FOR ACTION

by Beverly Summy
Benevolent Board

Tests Over Which Congregations Have Control as They Plan for Ministry To, For, and With the Aging

The Benevolent Board would like to offer for your consideration the following "Positive Tests for Action" which have been compiled from the thinking of Dr. David O. Moberg, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Marquet University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the writer of the background paper on "Spiritual Well Being" for the 1971 White House Conference on Aging; Ms. Margaret (Maggie) Kuhn, Convenor of the "Gray Panthers"; and Mr. Donald Clingan, President of the Interfaith Coalition of Aging.

1. LONELINESS. It has been found that elderly persons all over the United States are **lonely.** What is the church doing about this very human factor?
2. ARCHITECTURE. Do churches plan their buildings and facilities keeping in mind the elderly?
3. FINANCES. Do congregational budgets show a high priority in funds for ministering to, for, and with the elderly?
4. TRANSPORTATION. One of the chief needs of the elderly is transportation . . . to the doctor, to the grocery store, to the pharmacy, to the church.
5. ACCENTUATION ON YOUTH. Every congregation should accentuate youth, but not the degree that the aging are forgotten.
6. TIMING OF SERVICES. Do our congregations plan at least some of the services they provide at times convenient for the aging? Night meetings, for instance, are not the best for the elderly.
7. FAMILY ORIENTED PROGRAMMING. Do we remember single member families as we plan church fellowship and religious education events?
8. REMOVAL FROM LEADERSHIP ROLES. How often do we "shelve" our aging saying that younger people ought to have all the leadership roles in congregations?
9. LOSS OF RESPECT AND DIGNITY. Have you heard some elderly person say in your congregation that he or she is "just retired?" What does this say to the dignity and respect they have in their congregation?
10. OUT OF SIGHT—OUT OF MIND. In our "fear of aging," do we try to put the aging who need us, the ill or lonely or poor, out of sight and out of mind?
11. NEW WORSHIP STYLES. How flexible are we in planning our congregational worship to meet all persons' needs and desires?
12. ORIENTATION TO SOCIAL ACTION. Some aging are social activists. Some are afraid of such action. Nearly all aging, though, do desire to be of some service to others if they are provided the opportunity in home repair programs, telephone reassurance, friendly visiting, etc. In what programs of service do you involve the aging in your congregation both in the planning stage and in the program itself?
13. RETIREMENT POLICIES, PENSION PLANS, AND BENEFITS. Have you had a hard look at your congregational retirement policies, pension plans, and benefits lately? Are they adequate for today and planned for the future?
14. DEMOCRATIC PLANNING FOR ELDERLY. Do the elderly in your congregation, Home Center, and religious body as a whole, have the opportunity to plan and direct programs for themselves?
15. NEW DIMENSIONS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. What programs of religious education from the kindergarten level through older adults are designed to prepare persons for the normality of the aging process and for the day of retirement? We are told that with the medical science we now know, people could live to be 120 to 150 years of age. At the same time we are envisioned to retire earlier and earlier—even as early as 50 years of age. What will we do creatively in this world with 100 potential years of retirement?

Ask the above questions in your congregation. Are you facing them straightforwardly? They are "positive tests for action" over which you DO HAVE CONTROL! Consider these questions in connection with the formation of GAF (Golden Agers Fellowship) in your congregation.



A PARENT BECOMES INVOLVED

During my Christian Life I've tried to use what talent I have for the Lord, but never felt that teaching was part of that talent. However, after hearing thoughts and ideas coming from my own sons, I realized the need for my involvement as a concerned parent in sharing my faith with children. I started reading and searching for ideas to help me and ended up at an I.C.L. Seminar (International Center for Learning). I was a bit skeptical about going fearing it would be another one of those over-advertised, over-talked about, waste of time seminars that promise ideas and resources but somehow never get to the point.

However, the staff was so good—ideas flowed like a spring stream. There were not only suggestions and demonstrations but I was involved in doing as well as learning.

So much was said and done in those few hours and it was so valuable and useable. The major ideas that I went away with were to be more aware of the needs of youth, get to know my students, accept them and try to guide them into service. All of these suggestions along with the activities such as making mobiles, collages, murals, doing skits, writing stories and songs when applied to the lessons are ways of teaching God's Word with positive results.

I'm using so many of these ideas with a Junior Youth group at Park Street Brethren Church and must admit that they really work. Our youth group is thriving! I am thankful for I.C.L.

by Joanne Brelsford



Joanne Brelsford is the wife of William Brelsford who teaches in the Mathematics Department of Ashland College. They have three sons. Joanne and Bill are very active in the Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland, Ohio. Joanne attended the I.C.L. Seminar here in Ashland last spring.

WOMEN'S LAB



THE KITCHEN ANGEL

One of the experiments in "Women's Lab" is conducted to focus on priceless commodities we have access to and tend to take for granted. One such is—

"Where's Fern?"

"Will Fern be here?"

"Is Fern going to cook?"

These are some of the questions flying about when groups in a certain area congregate long enough to require food to eat. The object of their concern is our own **Fern Smith.**

When young people arrive at Camp Bethany, the prospect of this gracious lady presiding over the food department assures them of a delightful week. To be sure, the young people are not the only ones who inquire anxiously about this kitchen magician. Church groups, organization retreats, family camps, district conferences—all, individually and collectively, voice the same desire for her ministries, and praise for her delicacies.

In the local church—at Park Street in Ashland—Fern is always available and willing to provide sustenance for the "inner man" which is so essential to well-being and harmony. On these occasions she not only prepares most delectable food, but provides it at a very minimal cost. Also, if one were to request the addition of ten more reservations to a dinner within an hour of serving time, she never loses her cool. She always comes through with an abundance of nectar and ambrosia or its modern counterpart.

She is truly an artist in the culinary department, where she seems to create her masterpieces for the sheer love of serving others.

Fern has spent years supervising and cooking for the dining room and cafeteria at Ashland College; she has presided over the preparation of meals for a number of years at Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity; she has helped numerous times in President Clayton's home when large groups were entertained; and she has catered at innumerable parties. Her skilful hands and expertise have done wonders for many.

There may be other professional people who have served in similar capacities and on as numerous occasions, but it is doubtful if any can compare with her kind, obliging spirit in doing so.

Fern—widow of the late Honor Smith—is the daughter of a former Brethren minister, the Reverend Andrew Hendrickson. She has been a lifelong member of the Brethren Church, where she attends regularly and serves faithfully—as a member of the Official Board, recently as president of the Women's Missionary Society, on hospitality committees, etc.

This lovely lady has a son, Jack, a commercial artist living at Marion, Ohio; and a daughter, Frances, a housewife and mother, living at New London, Ohio. Fern is the proud grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of two. She is an ardent antique lover as one will discover in exploring her delightful home.

Indeed, Fern has many claims to fame, as we know her; but most of us think of her and will always remember her as

THE KITCHEN ANGEL! —il



The Brethren Layman

The Laymen's Meeting

Rodger H. Geaslen

INSPIRATIONAL FOR JANUARY

WAVES THAT DRIVE US TO GOD

A little boy made a boat and went off in high glee to sail it on the water. But presently it got beyond his reach, and in his distress he appealed to a big boy for help, asking him to get it back for him.

Saying nothing, the big boy picked up stones, and seemed to be throwing them at the boat. The little chap thought he never would get his boat back, and that instead of helping, the big boy was out to have some fun at his expense.

But presently he noticed that instead of hitting the boat, each stone went beyond it, and made a little wave, which moved the boat a little nearer to the shore.

Every throw of the stones was planned. At last the toy was brought within reach, and the little boy was happy again in the possession of his treasure.

Sometimes things in our life seem disagreeable and without sense or plan. But wait awhile, and we shall see that each trial, each striking of a stone upon the quiet water of our life has brought us nearer to God.

CHRIST ALONE

Oh, the bitter shame and sorrow,
That a time could ever be
When I let the Saviour's pity
Plead in vain; and proudly answered,
"All of self, and none of Thee!"
Yet He found me; I beheld Him
Bleeding on the accursed tree;
Heard Him pray: "Forgive them, Father!"
And my wistful heart said faintly,
"Some of self, and some of Thee!"
Day by day His tender mercy,
Healing, helping, full and free;
Sweet and strong, and, ah! so patient,
Brought me lower, while I whispered,
"Less of self, and more of Thee!"
Higher than the highest heaven,
Deeper than the deepest sea,
Lord, Thy love at last hath conquered;
Grant me now my supplication,
"None of self, and all of Thee!"

Theodore Monod



PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT BRETHREN LAYMEN NEWS

Pennsylvania District Brethren men have, for some years, had a going program. Since Camp Peniel, in the beautiful hills of Somerset County, Pa., had been established as the meeting ground of The Brethren, our men have taken a week-end there, with meetings, recreation, fellowship and eats, usually in April; its called Spring Retreat. The pond is stocked with trout, the hills surrounding have turkey, groundhog, squirrel, etc. and most of we men have a fine time. Boys and young men are always included.



Upcoming events include: Spring Rally, Berlin, April 18, 1975, at 7:30 p.m. and Spring Retreat, Camp Peniel, Friday evening and all day Saturday, May 16-17, 1975.

New officers for the year 1975 are: President, Doyle Paul of Berlin; Vice President, Sam Anderson of Wayne Heights; Secretary, William Shultz of Berlin; Assistant Secretary, Earl Ely of 2nd. Church, Johnstown; Treasurer, Lester Leidy of Vinco; Assistant Treasurer, Floyd Benshoff of 3rd. Church, Johnstown; Brotherhood Advisor, James Mackall of Vinco; Ministerial Associate, Rev. C. William Cole, Vinco.

To men of other districts, we do inivte you to join us in our activities.

Floyd S. Benshoff

(LAYMEN TIDBIT)

Sam Clingaman, 91, whose devotion to Laymen activities is well known is now residing at the:

Miller Merry Manor
Blair Pike
Peru, IN 46970

A note or card of cheerful greetings would be most welcome by Sam.





"WHY A BRETHREN PUBLISHING COMPANY?"

What brings about the decline and downfall of great nations and empires? As one goes back through the centuries of history he discovers that the record is filled with the accounts of nations which at one time or another held great sway in the world, but which in our day are either non-existent or very weak. Why? As one studies the pages of the Old and the New Testaments he discovers that there was a time when the Assyrian empire was so powerful that all of the other nations of the world paid tribute or taxes to her. Where is the Assyrian empire today? There was a period of Old Testament history when Egypt was the most feared nation in the world. What has become of Egypt's power and national possessions? Other nations took their turns as world leaders and masters—Syria, Media-Persia, Babylon, Greece, Rome—and yet, even as God revealed to the prophet Daniel, each of these nations passed into oblivion or insignificance — Why? In more recent centuries history records the victories and the growth of such empires as the Ottoman Empire, the French Empire, the British Empire—each of which, at one time or another, had almost unlimited power and influence—but today are almost struggling to maintain themselves. Why?

In the Old Testament record we read the history of the rise and decline of the nation of Israel. This group of slaves, led out of the land of Egypt by Moses, separated unto God as His "Chosen People," eventually became the greatest nation on the face of the earth. The inspired writers tell us that during the reign of David all of the other nations of the earth sought to be at peace with Israel, and vied for Israel's favor. The kingdom stretched from the Mediterranean Sea over to the Mesopotamian valley, and from Syria down to Egypt. Under David's son Solomon the influence of this great nation was felt from one end of the known world to the other end. Yet as one continues to read into the Old Testament he discovers that just about two centuries later this great nation had declined to the point that they were paying tribute to surrounding nations, and were soon taken into captivity by some of those nations. Some of the most interesting, and yet most tragic reading in the Old Testament, is found in the writings of some of the prophets whom God called to proclaim His message to the people of Israel during this period of their history. One cannot read such books as Amos and Hosea, for instance, without realizing what a terrible decline

had taken place in this one-time glorious nation. Corruption, rape, adultery, drunkenness, bribery, idolatry, oppression, harlotry, dishonesty, lust, etc. are all frequently mentioned in the writings of these, and other of the prophets who preached to the people at that time. One commentator refers to this period as "the noise of a nation falling to pieces." Why?

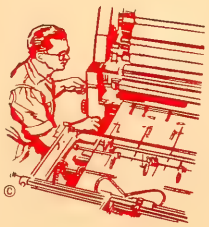
In his classic, "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Gibbon lists seven "reasons" for this decline and fall—and what is said about the Roman Empire could, without a doubt, be said concerning all of the other great nations and empires about whom we have written. Author Gibbon, in calling attention to the seven reasons for this collapse of great powers, does not list a single "outside" enemy or force as helping to bring about these falls—rather he suggests that in each instance the nations declined and finally collapsed because of internal conditions! God revealed this truth to Amos and Hosea many centuries before Gibbon made public his theory. Hosea, you will recall, says as he proclaims the message which God had told him to bring to the people of Israel, "My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge." Amos, in speaking God's message to the people, talks about the "famine of the Word of God." The seven reasons for the decline of Rome, set forth by writer Gibbon, could all be summed up in those words of Hosea—the nation declined and fell because of their lack of knowledge! And what was said concerning those nations of past centuries could just as truly be said of the nations which have declined and fallen in more recent decades—and we believe that the reason for the decline in prestige, in influence, in moral and spiritual leadership, in confidence on the part of other nations, within our own land can be attributed to this same lack of knowledge!

In speaking of a "lack of knowledge" the prophet is not speaking of any "shortage" of education, nor of any lacking of educational opportunities. He is not speaking of a lack of scientific knowledge, nor of diplomatic knowledge, nor of sociological or psychological knowlegde—but rather he is speaking of a lack of knowledge of God and of God's will and of God's place in their lives as individuals and as nations. It is this lack of knowledge which brings about ultimate decline and oblivion of nations—and it is this lack of knowledge which could very well bring about the ultimate decline and passing into obscurity or oblivion of even our own nation!

Now you might be wondering what all of this has to do with the announced title for this article. Simply this, **The Brethren Publishing Company exists for one reason—to do whatever it can to help to overcome this lack of knowledge of spiritual matters.** Through printing and distributing the Word of God—through a variety of means and methods—the Brethren Publishing Company is seeking to give to men and women and children the necessary food during this time when the forces of Satan are striving to spread to more and more nations, communities and homes the "famine of the Word."

The printed word is powerful! "The pen **is** mightier than the sword" when it comes to reaching mens minds and hearts. As you read from time to time in your newspepers about coups and political take-overs in various lands notice that one of the first steps taken by the leaders of the new government is that of seizing the newspapers. Why? Because they know the power and the influence of the printed word! They know that the mind of people can be molded through the things which they read in the papers. These leaders realize that through the printed word they can promote their own plans, their own programs, their own philosophies, etc. hence they are quick to take control of these sources of propaganda or publicity.

Satan has succeeded in our day in his efforts to control much of what the people of this nation, and the world, read and see. He has succeeded, sometimes with much help from political and judicial leaders, in flooding this nation with books, magazines, films, pictures, etc. which can only lead to moral and spiritual and social decline and collapse. The Christian press is one of the few remaining counteracting agents! Only as Christian publishers are able to "flood" the nation with magazines, books, etc. which will help to introduce people to the Christian life, and which will help people to grow in the Christian life, can we hope to see any improvement in this nation or in the world. It has been said that the "Hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." It might just as accurately be said that the "Hand that runs the presses rules the mind."



As Brethren we are fortunate to own a publishing company which is dedicated to this God-given responsibility and task of trying to mold the minds and lives of men and women and young people through the printed page. The Brethren Publishing Company has no other reason for existing! But it can only continue to exist and to do this work as the Brethren Church gets behind it and gives it her fullest support—financially and prayerfully. May it never be said or written that the United States declined and fell because Christian people—and especially Brethren people—failed to support the work of the Publishing Company, and thus contributed to the "lack of knowledge" which brings about such decline.

(Rev.) Henry Bates

1234 FACTS THAT EVERY BRETHREN

1

The Brethren Publishing Company is in business for the Lord and The Brethren Church. It has no other reason to exist— no other foundation upon which to justify its continuance. It has but one cause to proclaim through the printed page— the cause of Christ as it finds expression in our church and in our world-wide ministries.

2

The Brethren Publishing Company i to be sure) and as such needs capit No business can succeed without succeed unless its clientele suppor clientele of Brethren Publishing Brethren Church.

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4

The Brethren Publishing Company has many needs . . . more subscriptions to THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST, our church paper . . . increased giving to the PUBLICATION DAY OFFERING to help offset the tremendous rise in costs of paper and other materials . . . Brethren who believe in the power of the pen. Brethren who wish to see this ministry continue until Jesus comes. BRETHREN who will remember the Brethren Publishing Company in outright gifts and annuities. But our greatest need is your continued love, prayer support and encouragement as we seek to be faithful in our ministry to and through you, God's people—Christ's Church.

SIGNAL LIGHTS PROGRAM FOR JANUARY

BIBLE THEME:

Friends

MISSION PROJECT:

Radio Programs and Literature for Spanish Speaking Americans

by ALBERTA HOLSINGER

Bible Story: How Four Friends Helped

(If you have this story in flannelgraph form use it. If not, have pictures of Palestinian houses. Point out the stairway to the roof and the tile roof.)

"Jesus is here! Jesus is here!" the people told their friends. "He is here in Capernaum."

Quickly the word spread. Quickly the people went to see Him. Soon the house where he was staying was filled with people. Others crowded about the doorway.

Four men hurried to a sick friend. "Jesus is in town," they said. The man's sickness had made it impossible for him to walk.

"I wish I could go to Him," said the sick man. "He could make me well. I know He could."

"We will take you," said the friends.

Very carefully they lifted the sick man onto a stretcher. Very carefully they carried him to the house where Jesus was staying. But many other people were already there. They could not get to the door of the house. What would they do? How could they get their friend to Jesus?

"Let's take him up on the roof," suggested one. "We could lift up the tile. Then we could let the stretcher down with a rope."

That's just what they did.

When Jesus looked up and saw the four friends letting the sick man down through the roof, He smiled at them.

"I will help your friend," He told them.

To the sick man He said, "Because of your faith in Me you are well. Take up your bed and walk."

The man got up, folded up his stretcher bed and went out the door. The men on the roof quickly put the tile back in place. Then they joined their friend on the ground.

The man who had been sick said, "Thank You, God. Thank You for Jesus. Thank You for my friends."

—Based on Mark 2:1-12

Memory verse: Ephesians 5:20

The man who was healed thanked God for making him well and for his friends. Our memory verse reminds us that we, too, should give thanks to God for all things.

"Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Mission Story: A Mexican Grandma

"Grandma, we're home!" called Ana as she and her sister came running into the house.

"Good" said Grandma. "How was school?"

"It was great," answered Linda. "I'm learning to read."

"If only you would learn to read in Spanish," sighed Grandma.

"I wish you could speak more English," said Ana. "It would be easier to talk with you."

Grandma is Dona Maria, an eighty-year-old Mexican-American. She lives with her son and his family in Tucson. Dona Maria speaks only Spanish. Her son and his wife speak both English and Spanish, but the children speak mostly English.

Grandma became a Christian many years ago when she lived in the Mexican border town of Nogales. There she learned many hymns and memory verses—in Spanish, of course.

Fifteen years ago the family moved to Tucson and Dona Maria came with them.

She was not really happy in the new city. There were few people she could talk with, and, oh, how she missed the church! As she helped with the work around the house she sang the hymns she knew. She told her son how wonderful it was to have Jesus as her Savior and she wished he would accept Him, too.

Her son smiled. 'I know you are happy with your Jesus, but He's not for me, Mother. Religion is for children and old people."

His wife smiled, too, and nodded.

Shortly after they moved to Tucson the birth of Jose brought them great happiness. Dona Maria held her tiny grandson close as she rocked and sang hymns.

Then seven years ago Ana was born and the next year Pearla. (They call Pearla Linda which means cute.)

Although Dona Maria missed her Christian friends in Nogales she was happy helping to care for her beautiful grandchildren.

Then last winter a wonderful thing happened. She met Rev. Bill Curtis. He wasn't like other pastors she knew in Tucson. He talked with her in Spanish! They became good friends.

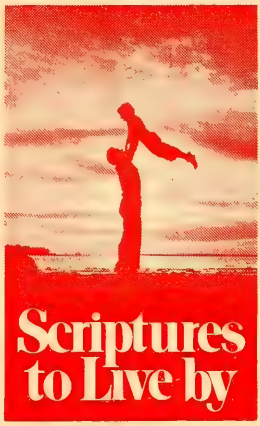
Rev. and Mrs. Curtis visit Dona Maria often. They read the Bible and pray with her. They tell the girls Bible stories.

If Rev. Curtis begins a story in English, Grandma will say, "No, no. Tell it in Spanish. I want to hear it, too."

But the little girls say, "Oh, tell it in English so we can understand it better!"

Rev. Curtis laughs and ends up telling the story in both languages.

(Through your Signal Lights offering this year, you are helping to tell those stories, too, in both English and Spanish.)



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR 1975

Join with thousands of other evangelicals in this nation-wide program of daily Bible reading. Handy bookmark-size reading guides are available in two plans, through the Bible in a year or Bible reading/study guide. Use the form below to place an order for your church today.

NAE
A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

MAIL TO:
NAE, Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187

YES, we wish to share in NAE's Bible reading program for 1975. Please send the following materials in the indicated quantities:

_____ BIBLE READING/STUDY GUIDE —daily passages for 1975 with study guide.

_____ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR—daily reading guide chronologically covering the Bible in 1975.

Price of guides, either plan: 25/$1.50 50/$2.00 100 or more/$4.50 per 100

_____ POSTERS—for church bulletin boards and classrooms to promote your Bible reading program for 1975. 12/75 cents 25/$1.25 50 or more/$2.00 per 50

_____ PRAYER GUIDES—especially prepared for those interested in praying for specific NAE ministries. Provided free.

Total amount enclosed $_____

NOTE: Prices include postage/handling

NAME/CHURCH _____

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news ... from the Brethren

Weddings



RICE–MILLER

Our congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Brad Dean Miller married in the church sanctuary Saturday evening, November 16, 1974. Rev. James Overholt officiating.

Mrs. Miller was formerly Miss Becky Sue Rice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Rice.

Following their wedding trip they will be at home at 5913 Bunt Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

* * *

FRESHOUR–MORRIS

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Morris were married in the church sanctuary Nov. 22, 1974 by Rev. Bob Knechel.

Mrs. Morris was formerly Miss Debbie Freshour and a former student of Pastor Immel.

Our hearty congratulations and best wishes to this young couple.

DEWITT–MENTZER

Michele DeWitt and Mike Mentzer were united in Holy Marriage October 5 in The Assumption of the B.V.M. Catholic Church in Feasterville, Pennsylvania.

Mike is a member of the Fairless Hills - Levittown Brethren Church where he serves as teacher in the Jr. High - Sr. High Department of the Sunday School.

* * *

WELTY–CORCORAN

Carol Lee Welty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard J. Welty of Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania became the bride of Gerald T. Corcoran, son of Mary Corcoran of Port Jerius, New York, in a ceremony at Berggren's Wedding Chapel, Odessa, Texas, November 9, 1974. Rev. George Gilmore of Seaford, Delaware, uncle of the bridegroom officiated.

Carol has been active in the work of the Fairless Hills - Levittown Brethren Church. The couple will reside in Odessa, Texas.

Goldenaires



Rev. and Mrs. Fred Vanator observed their 67th Wedding Anniversary on November 28th.
Sarasota, Florida

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. William Bixler, Sr., observed their 58th on December 2nd.
Sarasota, Florida

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Sarasota, Florida—14 by baptism, 2 by letter
Canton, Ohio—9 by baptism, 2 by letter

CHURCH NEWS

MANSFIELD, OHIO



Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Brady

The weekend of October 18-20 was full of activities as the Walcrest Brethren Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of worship services in the sanctuary located on Highway 30 North and Walcrest Drive a shore drive west of Mansfield, Ohio.

Gathering around a bon-fire on Friday night with a hymn sing and testimonial period started the celebration activities off with exhuberance. This was followed by a similar program in the fellowship hall.

Saturday provided a full day's program for all with a recreational period scheduled in the morning and afternoon followed by an All-Church banquet at 5:30 P.M. The program of the evening was held in the sanctuary consisting of special music, instrumental and vocal, interspersed with skits provided by members of the church. This was followed by a hayride for the youth.

The program for the Lord's Day began with the Sunday-School hour with Special events presented in the following Worship Service. Testimony from the oldest member of the congregation, Mrs. Blanche Miles provided the inspirational thoughts of God's grace and goodness through the years. One of the newest members of the congregation, Mr. Ray Moffitt also shared his thoughts on the same theme with his personal testimony.

Testimony in music was provided by a mixed quartet, Curt and Martha Flood, Ray and Lee Moffitt. A trio composed of Marilyn Sapp, Regina Steward and DaLee Schroff. The Junior Choir whose members, Bonnie Ader, Clara Brown, Donnie Brown, Sherry Brown, Veronica Brown, Shelly Jordan, Kelly Jordan, Dee-Dee Gleisinger, Jan Osborne and Darren Sapp shared in the musical portion of the morning worship service.

A devotional challenge to grow in Christian love and service which could lead others to become members of that Christian fellowship was presented by the pastor. The Sunday Evening service brought the weekend activities to an inspiring climax with a candlelight re-dedication service. Lynne Brady, Marilyn Sapp and Regina Steward provided the special music.

The festivities for this weekend were concluded with a birthday party for the church edifice and the beautiful cake that was prepared by Mrs. Sally Nelson was served to the members taking part in this final event.

Commendations should be presented to those who worked so diligently to make the home-coming anniversary a success. Mrs. Diane Brown as chairman of the Banquet Committee and her coworkers; Mrs. Edith Brown, Mrs. Darlene Gleisinger, Mrs. Lee Moffitt, Mrs. Marjorie Simmons, Mrs. Hazel Longshore and Mrs. Mary Sipe.

The Publicity Committee: Mr. Curt Flood, Mrs. Martha Ader, Mrs. Blanche Miles, Mrs. Rosalie Walter and Mr. Ray Moffitt as well as all of the members who made various contacts with many people to assist in making the celebration one of wonderful fellowship and Christian love as sisters and brothers in Christ.



THE FAITHFUL CENTENARIAN



Mrs. Amanda Vulgamott celebrated her 100th birthday September 20, 1974 at the Kirby Hospital Annex Nursing Home although since 1971 she has been a resident of the Piatt County Shelter Care in Illinois.

She was a very faithful member of The Cerro Gordo Brethren Church in attendance of Sunday School and Worship service and as an active member of the W.M.S. Society.

Mrs. Vulgamott enjoyed attending District Conferences and considered it a great privilege and blessing to be with many of her Christian friends and making new ones at these events.

(Your editor remembers quite well becoming acquainted with Mrs. Vulgamott at the Central District Conference held in 1970 at Waterloo, Iowa and her keen interest and activity in Brethren Church affairs at the age of 95.

Special mention of this event was made in the August 15, 1970 issue and in the account of the editor's first Conference circuit in the Sept. 12. 1970 issue of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST.)

Among the 70 plus persons attending the special birthday party for Amanda were her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vulgamott of Michigan. Also three great-grandchildren were in attendance.

A special birthday cake was made for the occasion by Mrs. Lowe of Hammond which was beautifully decorated with a floral design in the shape of the numerals "100."

Amanda is a great blessing and joy to all who reside at the home and to all the staff and to visitors as she gently rocks in the doorway of her room. "Amanda's 100th. Birthday" was a day to be remembered long by the many friends and relatives who shared many pleasant memories with a most gracious lady who has always been demonstrating the true meaning of Christian love and friendship in her life.

She was born in York, Pennsylvania and resided there until at the age of eighteen she journeyed alone by train to Cerro Gordo. At the age of twenty-five she was married to Charles E. Vulgamott. A daughter born to this union passed away at the early age of twenty-five leaving a son Charles E., whom Mr. and Mrs. Vulgamott adopted as their legal son. Amanda was left a widow herself in 1933.

Account of birthday celebration and biographical data submitted by Mrs. Helen McDonald of Cerro Gordo, Illinoiis.

The Brethren Publishing Company wishes to add its heartiest congratulations to the many received by Mrs. Vulgamott from the host of friends she has endeared herself to throughout the years. (Ed. Note)



UNDER THE MILKY WAY

God works in strange ways and our understanding is so limited, that we quail at the sight of what God has for us when it finally hits home. Such was the case when I received a phone call from Cheyenne this past summer. It is true that I had repeatedly offered to help in anyway I could; but the time for them to hold camp was past and I had put it out of my mind, or so I thought. The Lord had other ideas though and I received a call, camp dates had been changed; it would be the week after National Conference, could I come? Should I have said—NO? Some would think so; but God's call is firm and clear and in spite of obstacles God expects us to say YES.

YES, it was, but now how are we going to work this out. I'm over the hill and besides that I've been ill.

I'm not acclimated to the altitude any longer; my car has a hundred thousand miles on it. The list could go on and on as to why it couldn't be done; but God thinks in the possible and not the impossible.

Cheyenne Camp was possible, and God knew it as I had served at Indiana District Senior Camp the past summer and had met some of the fine talented young people of the district. One young man in particular impressed himself on my mind. I put down the phone from talking to Cheyenne, and immediately called the Bryan church and located Dave Stombaugh. (If any honors are to be passed out, it should go to this young man and to the people the Lord and he selected to make the trip.) I asked Dave to provide the staff and Praise the Lord, we had the best staff one could hope for: Dave Stombaugh, Tony Huffer, Cathy Cummins from Warsaw, and Cathy Comfort from Mishawaka.

1400 miles out from Ashland with 9 people in the car with a trailer filled with guitars and other things, we played serendipity on the way, made plans and practiced songs. We arrived late on Friday. Saturday we took the grand swing down through Rocky Mountain National Park where the troops had their first encounter with mountains at 13,000 feet altitude, singing praises to God, what a sight!



Camp was a real experience in God's Divine goodness—the week progressed with a tremendous feeling of love and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Cheyenne Camp is incredibly beautiful, situated 30 miles northwest of Wheatland, Wyoming, on the south side of Laramie Peak in the front range of the Rockies. The camp is held each year at the Fletcher Park Baptist Camp. Situated at an altitude of close to 9,000 feet. A view of 70 to 80 miles gives one a superb perspective of majestic beauty. The only close neighbors are bears, porcupines, deer, antelope, and other assorted critters. One truly gains a perspective on life not found in our normal rushed lives. Clear air, a peak to climb, and at night, the stars. Two things I insisted on from my Indiana Brethren; the first, being that they never leave the camp alone, (afraid I would lose them) and second, that they look at the stars. Every night, they kept saying how beautiful it was and I kept telling them "well it's not too clear yet." Finally Thursday night was clear and having turned off every light, I called them out—there it was, the Universe spread out before us,, the "Via Lactia" (milky way) in all of its glory and Abraham's seed was to be countless as the stars; Praise God. I came to understand later that they actually slept (awake sleep) outside trying to count the falling stars.

Hundreds of particles hit our envelope of air daily; but we see so few because of that mile and three-fourths of dirty air on top of us.

The Lord blessed in all ways, fourteen campers —fourteen decisions of one sort or another. Back to Cheyenne Saturday afternoon and up early Sunday to start back.

On the way back, we came through the Black Hills and stopped at Mt. Rushmore for a break—then straight on to arrive home late Monday night.

The Lord certainly must have been with us—no trouble, well, maybe I'd better correct that, the wire to the clutch of my air conditioner broke and we stopped in Madison, Wisconsin at the Rambler Dealer where they worked two hours to fix it but couldn't and guess what—no charge. Praise the Lord, to find a dealer that will do that.

What shall I say to close. Cheyenne has a unique camp and I pray that more people will share in in. I pray that the other districts will encourage their top young people to go. Not only to help, but as a real learning and sharing experience.

If you would like to share in the Cheyenne Camp through pictures and spoken comments and songs, please contact us.

Rev. Michael L. Hurd.
P.O. Box 311 (531 S. Main St.)
Roanoke, IN 46783



World Religious News in Review

FEW EVADERS, DESERTERS, RESPOND TO 'EARNED REENTRY' PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—Only eight per cent of eligible deserters and one per cent of draft evaders have signed up for the amnesty program one month after President Ford announced his "earned reentry" offer.

According to the Justice Department, 6,600 draft evaders and 10,000 deserters are eligible for the program.

However, only 66 draft evaders and 783 deserters had shown up as of Oct. 16. The Pentagon said it has received inquiries about the offer from 3,673 men.

"There's an awful lot of skepticism," a Justice Department official said, adding that he felt more men would participate when they saw the offer had no "traps."

WORLD CATHOLIC POPULATION— 683 MILLION IN 1972

VATICAN CITY (EP) — According to the latest Vatican statistics, Roman Catholics worldwide numbered 683 million at the end of 1972, a net increase of 14 million over 1971.

SURVEY TIES LOWERED DRINKING AGE TO RISE IN ACCIDENTS IN ONTARIO

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Alcohol-related car accidents increased by more than 300 per cent among 18- and 19-year-old males after the legal drinking age was lowered to 18, an Ontario, Canada study has revealed.

Its results were detailed here by a United Methodist publication.

Conducted at London, Ont. by a University of Western Ontario sociologist, Paul Whitehead, the study showed such accidents jumped 339 per cent among those 18; 346 among those 19; and 156 per cent among 20-year-olds after the previous ban against drinking for that age group had been lifted.

PAPER SHORTAGE THREATENS BRITISH BIBLE PRODUCTION

LONDON (EP) — Britain's great Bible production industry is threatened by a shortage of the special paper it uses, according to a statement by the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS).

"For years the production department of the BFBS has bought its paper from three British mills—the only three in the country making Bible paper," the statement said. "Now two of them have amalgamated and the source of supply has been cut by 20 per cent, which is a lot."

The statement said Bible paper is also made in France but it costs 40 per cent more—"too much."

'MASTER CHARGE' IS WESLEYAN TRACT

MARION, Ind. (EP) — Clerks at billing agencies are doing double takes these days as a special Master Charge card is tossed on the counter.

It looks like the nationwide Master Charge but a second glance yields the inscription: "Give Christ Charge of Your Life."

Printed by the Wesleyan Publishing House here, the cards are part of a new flood of pamphlets, brochures and other materials attempting to make Jesus Christ part of modern life.

"He loves you and wants to give you the abundant life," the card reads. "Receive Him now through prayer."

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS DIES AFTER REFUSING BLOOD TRANSFUSION

CARMODY HILLS, Md. (EP) — A 26-year-old Jehovah's Witness woman here bled to death after giving birth to a child at a nearby hospital and refusing a blood transfusion on religious grounds.

But while a District of Columbia superior judge declined to order a transfusion for Janet Pogue, he did order transfusions for her newborn daughter who was suffering from acute intestinal problems, even though the parents demanded this not be done.

A hospital spokesman said doctors at the hospital had told the judge that the baby would suffer mental retardation and possibly death if the transfusions were not made.

NO THREAT TO TAX DEDUCTIONS SEEN

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — Fears that Congress will cut off income tax deductions for gifts to churches, missions and Bible colleges persist, even though the rumors are groundless.

"This is a strange phenomenon that is a little difficult to understand," W. Barry Garrett, information services director for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, told EP News Service.

"Just who is behind this sustained effort to scare the churches, in spite of all the efforts of Congressmen, our office and others to convey the facts in this situation, has been impossible to trace. Why this 'scare' continues is beyond me."

No, Congress is not about to remove the tax deductibility of contributions to churches, schools and other public charities, the Baptist Committee reported.

And no, Congress is not about to discontinue the provision for the tax-free housing allowance for ministers.

In the words of a highly placed member of the staff of the House Committee on Ways and Means, such proposals in this Congress "are dead, cold and buried."

RELIGIOUS BOOK, BIBLE MARKET FLOURISHING

NEW YORK (EP) — Forty-two per cent of American families bought Bibles or other religious books in the past year, according to National Family Opinion, Inc., a research agency which has sampled 15,958 families.

The U.S. census data puts the total number of families at about 52 million, AP Religion Writer George Cornell notes, therefore 21 million of them in the last 12 months bought at least one religious book.

The opinion survey found that 18 percent of the families have purchased New Bibles in the past year and a larger proportion, 24 per cent, have purchased other religious books—a total of about nine million Bibles and 12 million other religious books.

Eighty per cent of the families own at least one Bible, Cornell writes in his analysis, while 20 per cent of them have none in the home. However, 95 per cent of the families were aware of one or more of the 10 major current versions of the Bible.

The largest proportion of families, 68 per cent, own copies of the 350-year-old King James Version, while the next most widely owned version, the 30-year-old Revised Standard Version, was in 32 percent of the homes.

The third-placed version, now in 23 per cent of the family homes, was the three-year-old Living Bible—a volume which has been the biggest seller of all in the past three years—a total of 15 million copies of that paraphrase.

FIVE 'DECISION' WRITING SCHOOLS PLANNED FOR 1975

MINNEAPOLIS (EP) — Five schools of Christian writing will be sponsored in 1975 by Decision magazine, according to its editor, Sherwood E. Wirt.

The popular format of Dr. Wirt's "School of Christian Writing" which began here in 1963 sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, will be featured at Warner Pacific College, Portland, Ore., March 16-19; Forest Home Christian Conference Center near San Bernardino, Calif., June 22-25; Toronto, Ontario, June 30 - July 3; London, England, during the Billy Graham summer crusade there; and at the First Convocation on Church Growth in Jerusalem, February, 1975, at which Dr. Wirt will speak on writing.

Editor Wirt has addressed writers in 15 countries, most recently in Rio de Janeiro where 123 gathered for the Oct. 1-4 writing sessions at Villa Isabel Baptist Church. Mrs. Charlene Myhre was registrar for the writing school held in conjunction with the Billy Graham Rio de Janeiro crusade at Marcana Stadium.

Names in the News

Mrs. Virginia Bell, widow of L. Nelson Bell and mother of Mrs. Billy Graham, died at Montreat, N.C. Nov. 9. Grady Wilson preached at the Norfolk Billy Graham Crusade while Mr. and Mrs. Graham attended the funeral.

'GULAG' FIRST IN ETERNITY BOOK POLL

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (EP) — Readers responding to Eternity magazine's annual poll gave Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn's The Gulag Archipelago top place.

Second place went to Karl Menninger's Whatever Became of Sin? and third to Richard Quebedeaux who wrote, The Young Evangelicals.

The 180-book poll (representing 55 publishers) was surveyed by nearly 85 participants to determine "the most significant new book for Eternity readers." A total of 89 books (31 publishers) received at least two votes; 29 books (14 publishers) made it into the top 25, receiving at least seven votes.

"Publisher of the Year" went to Eerdmans with six books on the top list. Second place was Zondervan with four; Baker and InterVarsity tied for third, both with three books.

'CHRISTIAN LIFE' LISTS 50 FASTEST GROWING SUNDAY SCHOOLS

WHEATON, Ill. (EP) — The most massive increase in Sunday school attendance since the turn of the century is now being recorded, according to Christian Life magazine.

In the magazine's November issue, Christian Education Editor Elmer Towns lists the 50 fastest growing Sunday schools in the U.S.—based on the best returns from each state.

"Not since the late 1800's and the early days of the 20th century have the numbers been so great," exclaimed Towns.

"What is appalling, however, is that official church statistics do not reflect these attendance gains. The reason is plain. They are not being recorded in big city churches,, nor in many old-line denominations."

Towns said that his studies show Sunday school growth taking place in smaller cities and in lesser known denominations like the Bible Baptist, Nazarene, Baptist General Conference and Assemblies of God. Christian Life presented banners to the 50 fastest growing Sunday schools at the Mid-American Sunday school Convention in Detroit.

SCHOOL BOARD COMPROMISE OFFERED TO END TEXTBOOK CONTROVERSY

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (EP) — By a 4-1 vote, the Kanawha County Board of Education approved (Nov. 8) a compromise plan aimed at ending the dispute over controversial English texts that has thrown the area into two months of turmoil.

Under the plan, all basic English texts and supplemental books (with two exceptions) will be returned to the classrooms. The two exceptions, the D.C. Heath Communicating series and Level 4 of the Houghton-Mifflin Interaction series, will be available only in school libraries. Students will be permitted to use those materials if they bring notes giving their parent's permission.

Board members also approved two guidelines providing that no student will be required to use books that are objectionable to the student's parents on moral or religious grounds, and that no teacher will be authorized to "indoctrinate" a student to follow moral or religious beliefs that are objectionable to either the student or the student's parents.

SISTERHOOD

SENIOR SISTERHOOD
JANUARY

by Mrs. Pat Ritchey

TO LOVE HIM

TRUST

What real joy there is in observing the changing of the years. January is the time for new beginnings, the time when the old leaves, now dirty, wet and moldy are covered over with a fluffy blanket of white snow and the world is transformed into a glittering wonderland of brightness and appears so clean.

How much like us, when we take that large step of faith in declaring Christ as the King of our lives and the Saviour of our souls. We no longer appear dirty in God's sight but as bright and clean as the new blanket of sparkling snow we have just mentioned. Praise God, that kind of clean just does not melt like the snow!

There is a symbolism in mentioning the melting of the snow that I would like to put before you and that is that when the snow melts, the ground begins to thaw and the moisture from the snow begins to sink into the ground. We need to be thawing ground. Bit by bit as we thaw to God's warm love, the Holy Spirit is able to infiltrate more and more of our lives, until He can saturate our whole being with His presence. Praise the Lord, I'd like to be that kind of mud!

As we begin our experience together today, I'd like to focus in on our love for God. How can we as Christians begin to express our love for God in ways that God would appreciate? In this article and the two following ones we will endeavor to uncover truths that will put your faith into action in ways that the Bible says are pleasing to God.

(Leader's Note: Today's program will be divided into three sections.)

Section 1. Read the instructions given with section 1 to the group. When you tell them to, the group will begin their work in section 1 only. This is an individual study and time of meditation. If each person does not have a copy of the verse and the questions to read, write them out on paper. the blackboard, or some other convenient way. Be sure that each person has his own verse and questions from section 1. The time allowed for this section should be five minutes.

Section 2. Begin this section by allowing the girls to find one partner with whom to work. Be sure that at least one person out of each couple has a copy of the Scripture verses and the directions to follow. Allow the couples to discuss their assignment quietly between each other. Allow ten minutes for this portion of the study.

Section 3. This time allow the couples to merge with other couples to form groups of four. (If your group is too small to make two groups of four use groups of threes or one with five or combinations of these that work out well for your situation. It is best not to leave one set of couples off by themselves.) Have them sit close together in order that they may all hear, share, and not bother others. Again, be sure that at least one person in each group has the Scripture verses needed and the questions for group discussion. Allow at least fifteen minutes for this portion of the program. If more time is needed and discussion seems to be going well, feel free to use your own judgment as to the length of time to allow.

To close your meeting you may wish to have all the girls form a circle and hold hands. Begin singing a few of the favorite choruses of praise to God that you know, then bow in prayer. (Praise God and share together the communion of the Holy Spirit in your presence.)

SECTION 1

Instructions: This is an individual study and time of meditation. Be sure you have or can see a copy of the following verses and the questions for meditation. You will be allowed five minutes in which to do this portion of the program. Separate yourself from others so that you will not be disturbed. Read the following verses slowly two times. Then read one phrase at a time, stop, think over the following questions and apply the answers to your personal life. While meditatinig, include a short time of silent prayer with God. Take the opportunity to confess sin, ask assistance in obeying God's word, praise God for his promises or express your needs to Him.

Proverbs 3:5 and 6 (Living Bible)

"Then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

Questions for Meditation:

1. What promise can I claim from these verses?
2. What example is given that I should follow?
3. Do these verses contain any commandment that I should apply to my life?
4. Do these verses point out sin in my life that I need to confess to God?

Include a short silent prayer.

SECTION 2

Instructions: For this section of the program find one other person with whom to share. Each couple separate from the other couples in order to prevent distractions. Be sure that at least one of you in your couple has the following Scripture references to read and the directions to follow. You will be allowed ten minutes for sharing your responses to the Scriptures with your partner. Please do so quietly.

Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6; Ephesians 2:7 and 8; Nahum 1:7.

Read the above Scriptures carefully so that you will be able to get the meaning from them.

Explain to each other what you feel **faith** or **trust** is as described in the Scriptures.

Explain to each other where one finds the ability to trust Jesus Christ.

If one or both of you have had the experience of receiving this gift of being able to trust Christ, please share it with your partner.

SECTION 3

Instructions: For this section each couple finds another couple to make a group of four. Separate yourselves from the other groups in order that you may not disturb them while you are sharing in your own group. Sit close together so each one can hear and share. Follow the directions closely and allow each person to respond before going on to the next part. You will be allowed fifteen minutes to do the following study.

Isaiah 26:3 Read this verse, then discuss among your group how God has worked this Scripture out in your life. (Allow each person to respond to this verse before moving on to the next one.)

Philippians 4:6 and 7 Examine this Scripture and discuss the meaning it has for your life. In what area of your life can you apply this Scripture? Mention one thing you will do this week to put this Scripture promise to work in your life.

I John 5:10-15 Examine this Scripture and share thoughts about the things of which we can be sure in this Scripture. (You may find as many as nine.)

John 3:36 As you read this verse, what promises do you find that apply to your life?

As your group finishes their time of sharing together remain quiet, allowing the other groups to finish their discussion without interruption. When all have finished, the leader will have you form a circle. She may ask you to share in singing some favorite choruses that you know and then to pray together.

JUNIOR SISTERHOOD JANUARY

by Mrs. Pauline Benshoff

A NEW BEGINNING

"Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" I Chron. 29:5 The New Year is about to begin. God has given us a new path to trod, a guide to lead us as we journey on and provision for every need in Christ Jesus. Yes, then, WHO IS willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?—What will your answer be this year to God's call for Your service in His Kingdom? Or are you, as are many others, too busy with your own pleasures and desires to give any time or thought to what God may desire of you? Maybe A New Beginning also requires A New Attitude and A New Determination on your part. This might be the Year! As I am writing I am also praying that you will catch a new vision of your sole purpose of living **now**, in this time. God loves you, God wants you (every part of you) and God surely needs you as His witness today. May you find a new joy and a new song in your service for Him in '75.

SINGING TOGETHER:

Take My Life And Let It Be

LEADER—Tonight we will be discussing five requirements that God makes in His call to consecration. Each one will be food for thought. As you present yours, consider whether or not you have been living up to what God needed of You. **First Requirement:** God wants our Heart Full of **Love and Devotion to His Cause.** He wants to reign there without a rival. "Christ in you the hope of glory." It is a glorious privilege and honor to have Christ dwell within! He can change our hates to love, and He can change our attitudes to understanding and praise. I guess I need to think less of myself and more about Him. I need to be regular in my attendance to Church so that I can enjoy the fellowship of other believers and keep involved in the Lord's work so He can prepare me for the work I'm to do for Him. I need

to want to worship and serve Him because I love Him and most of all because He first loved me.

Second Requirement: God wants **Our Will.** That's not easy! Probably it is one of the hardest things to do. But, once we really give Him our Will, we are beginning to learn something about the real joy there is in serving the Lord. We won't realize that joy until we do put God in control of our Will.

Third Requirement: God wants **Our Time.** Regardless of what may occupy our time, let it all be done as unto the Lord. Treasuring time as God's gift will do much to help us use our time in the Lord's service, to His glory and to our own and our neighbor's benefit. Only the present is ours, and that but for a moment. Improve the time with reading the Word of God. The Psalmist said, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." (Psalm 119:11) So we can see a reason for knowing the Word. It also points us to Christ and that is worth it all. We want our Time to help prepare us for the work He has set for us.

Fourth Requirement: God wants **Our Talents.** Maybe we feel we don't have many talents, or that our talents don't count for much. Well, if you let God bless your talents, they will increase. Think of that! Many folks thought they could never give a talk, say a prayer in public, or even sing a song, but when Jesus came into their hearts something happened. Their strength came from Him and to Him went the Praise and the Glory. Prove Him. He is Truth. He is your friend. He needs your talents in His service.

Fifth Requirement: God wants your **Whole Self.** After we accepted Jesus as our Saviour Our Body became precious to Him because it became His Dwelling place. Remember the verse "Know ye not that your body is the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16) He wants our **all.** He wants our strength, our vitality, our vision, our initiative, our ability, our personality, our present and our future. He wants our aims and ambitions in life to be laid at His feet and let Him direct our ways.

Leader—Now that we have found out all that God requires of us, how do you feel you stack up? You see, Check points therefore, like New Year's Day are very real blessings. For they bring us up short—face to face with time and with how we've used it. God willing, HE WILL grant us 365 more days or measures of time in 1975. Check up often this year and see how you are measuring up to His requirements.

Prayer Time—Think of some habit or anything you would like to get rid of this new year. Write it on a small piece of paper. Fold it and then gather up the papers and burn them in a pan wrapped in foil and sitting on a trivet so as not to burn anything else. After watching all the papers burn up, sit in silent, secret prayer to God that whatever you wrote down to get rid of may be removed from your life, burned as it were by the Holy Spirit's fire and consumed so that those things will no longer keep you from full allegiance and service to Christ in the new year. Then have someone close the silent prayer period.

BUSINESS—

OFFERING—

SMM BENEDICTION

DURING THE SOCIAL HOUR—Have everyone tell their "Most Wonderful Experience in 1974" and quote the Bible verse that meant the most to them all year.

I had promised to give you some idea of the topics we would be studying during this new year. Our over-all theme being "Serving Christ through Sisterhood."

January—A New Beginning (Consecration)
February—Love Meets Needs
March—From Death to Life (Easter)
April—The Quiet Place (Prayer Power)
May—Rooted and Grounded (Life)
June—Disciples at Work
July—Your Christianity is Showing
August—Downright Courage
September—God's Best
October—Let's Take Our Measurements

These will be our studies, how about you getting ready by daily taking your spiritual vitamins (reading the Bible) and doing your spiritual exercises (memorizing verses that help you) and keeping your spiritual bodies in good health till next time. Happy New Year and keep praying, God answers prayer. Love Polly.



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS MORN

God sent His Son on that first Christmas morn,
Giving us a Savior who in a stable was born.
Radiance from the star that night
Over the stable cast it's light;
Bringing the message that the Christ Child lay
Yonder in a manger filled with hay.
Songs from the Heavenly Chorus tell—
How God sent His Son on earth to dwell.
Over the stable the star shone bright,
Watching shepherds saw the light;
Awakened they all gathered round
Rejoicing when the Babe they found.
Drawing close they worshiped the new born King.
"Away in a manger" we now sing.
No downy pillow under His head,
Dear little Stranger asleep in His bed.
Following, the Wise Men watched the star.
Love had brought them from afar.
Over hills they came with gifts of gold,
Rejoicing for good news was told.
Now everywhere the joy bells ring—
Notes of Christmas joy they bring.

Florence Roby
College Corner
Brethren Church



CHRISTMAS JOY



We'll put a candle in the window
And hang a wreath upon the door,
For we are all so happy
that 'tis Christmas time once more.
There's tinsel and there's holly
And spicy odors fill the air.
There's hustle and there's bustle
and excitement everywhere.
For once more 'tis time to celebrate
the birthday of our king.
We'll worship Him in prayer and song
as joyfully we sing.
And Father we do thank Thee
each time we bow to pray,
For the Holy Baby Jesus
Who was born on Christmas Day!

Florence Roby
College Corner
Brethren Church



BONUS OFFER FOR NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST

There is still time to get a bonus book: ORDINARY DAYS WITH AN EXTRA-ORDINARY GOD—Prayerables II by Irene Harrell or IF I COULD PRAY AGAIN by David A. Redding with a **new** subscription to THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST for the present rate of $4.00 per year if received by December 31, 1974.

These books will be offered as a bonus for a limited time only and since the subscription rate had to be increased to $5.00 per year effective January 1, 1975 this is a good opportunity to take advantage of this offer while there is still time.

Irene Harrell's second book of Prayerables discloses how God is at work in our lives in an extraordinary way on the most ordinary of days. This book normally retails at $3.95 and is clothbound.

David Redding has prepared a book of prayers that are not in the conventional trend of expressing gratitude and seeking help. This unique book is also clothbound and is listed at $3.50.

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1975 CROSS COUNTRY CONFERENCE 1975

Theme: "Church Growth"

Study book: The Master Plan Of Evangelism
by Robert E. Coleman

This is a study of the Master's work with His disciples from the four gospels.

This book is on the bibliography of Arden Gilmer's Laymen Alive training program.

Cost: textbook—$1.50 study guide—$1.00 available from the Brethren Publishing Co.

Time: Each local church study this book between January 12 and March 16. These early dates are suggested because Easter falls on March 30, 1975.

Other books for reference:

How To Grow A Church—
Donald McGavran & Win Arn

Hope For Your Church—Harold L. Fickett Jr.

Watch the Brethren Evangelist for more information and guidelines for local study.

Eugene Beekley
Ralph Gibson
William Brady
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The Brethren EVANGELIST

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NOTES and COMMENTS



Published in Lanark, Illinois fifty years ago in the Lanark, Illinois Gazette this announcement still is applicable today. The pastor, C. E. Beekley was the father of Rev. Eugene J. Beekley, pastor of The First Brethren Church on Park Street, Ashland, Ohio.

FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH
C. E. Beekley, Minister
Bible School, 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship, 11:00 A.M.
Evening Worship, 7:00 P.M.
Choir Practice, Saturday Evening, 7:00 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY—A mile-post on the way to eternity. Where will you spend it? A New Year is a new opportunity, know your Bible and live its teachings. The non-church-goer will never be reached by the non-going church, and the stay-at-home is a voter against everything the church is trying to do—and for everything the Devil wants done. Why go to church? Because the church is the mightiest agency on earth for human help and progress. There is no true character but what is founded on the principles of religion. Man, go to church! Sunday is the Lord's day. How and where will you spend it? Glad to have you spend it at our church. You are especially invited. We wish you a Happy New Year.

By the Way

MIGHT WE BE FACING FUTURE SHOCK?

by Linda Izant

Future Shock: a book and documentary film which actively portrays the anxiety and stress created by our rapidly changing technological society. It is a picture of this second and the future of the next moment. It is the perfect portrayal of the overall human despair and the search for a meaningful and abundant life.

What is your reaction to Future Shock? Does it describe the world in which you live?

Future Shock: NOTHING IS PERMANENT . . . everything changes . . . man at endless combat with our environment and ourselves . . . man's relationship to things and people is very temporary . . . long term commitments not expected . . . no direction for where we are going . . . a cry for freedom . . . loss of a sense of belonging . . . the direction is up to us. There is a great concern over the population explosion and how to meet so many human needs. Yet, in science, we're trying to preserve life, make babies, reproduce people, and make robots. Is this not a search for perfection? Or, are we afraid of death?

Future Shock: What happens to the definition of man? Who are we? Although we are making discovery in creating human duplicates, there is one element we cannot create in the lab, and that is the soul of a person—his spiritual being.

Future Shock: a return to yesterday, yet rejection of roles by tradition. . . . Living is disturbance more than science. Are we victims of biotechnology? Will we lose the right to choose? We keep looking toward tomorrow for hope of a better world, so we have an awesome responsibility. What kind of world do we want?

People who read the book or see the film come through with varied reactions and conclusions. Some are scared or depressed, while some say it's a hoax. Others view it as a matter of fact—a future one must accept and become adjusted to (and the sooner the better, so you'll be ready and strong when the shock comes—or, is it already upon us?)

This picture of despair is no different from the state of man which has existed for all ages. The one fallacy with Future Shock is the statement that "nothing is permanent." The answer lies in the one thing that is PERMANENT and has penetrated all history. I am speaking of God's love for you and me as seen in the person of Jesus Christ. Future Shock didn't show us God's plan in the world, although I believe an element of His love was sensed in the life of the newborn baby and the face of the old, dying man.

You know, God loves us and does have a wonderful plan for our lives. His love was demonstrated in Christ's death on the cross. John 15:13 says: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus said: "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly." (That life might be full and meaningful.) He wants us to know the way out of our dilema and live in a world of peace, love, and joy.

However, there is our individual side of the story, too. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Don't stop reading now. Do you know what sin is? It is either active rebellion OR passive indifference toward God and the way He wants us to live.

Man searches out the answers to his dilemma and tries to solve them by a good life, ethics, philosophy, biotechnological perfection, etc., and still no solution. We use what God has given us to glorify ourselves and do our own thing.

Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father, but through me." (John 14:6) The answer to what kind of world we want lies in our individual decision. Individually, we make up the collective decisions that direct our society.

To you who haven't experienced God's love, this is your challenge: let God's love take control in your life and transform your heart, making you the kind of person He created you to be. Jesus said: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." (Revelation 3:20).

To the Child of God, your challenge: Hebrews 12:1-2 and Matthew 28:18-20, and be a pure vessel of God's love toward all the people in your lives.

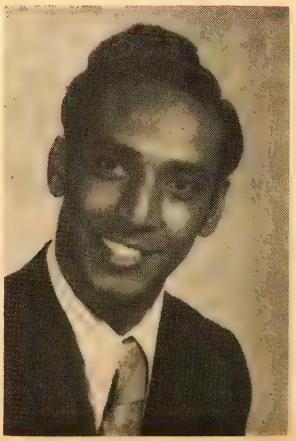
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MISSIONARY NEWS



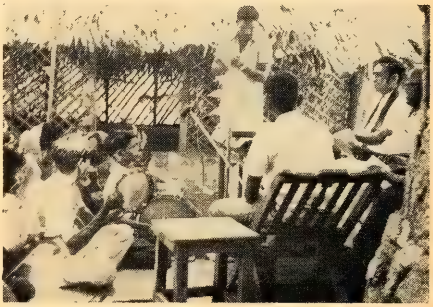
PRAYER REQUESTS FOR INDIA

By the time you read this notice, K. Vijaya Kumar will have returned to his homeland of India to begin work with the Brethren Mission there as a missionary. Before coming to the United States to study, Vijay worked as a member of the church there but now as a missionary he will be opening a new area for the Brethren in India in the city of Visakhapatnum. **PRAY FOR HIM.**

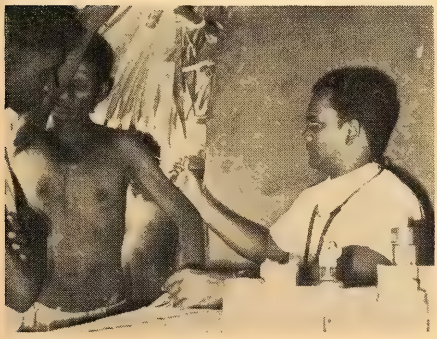




Remember also Prasanth, Nirmala, their children and those boys in the orphanage. This is but a part of the work that is the Brethren Mission. **PRAY FOR THEM.**



The work is carried forward by a number of pastors and evangelists who assist the Brethren missionaries in shepherding the various congregations and prayer groups. **PRAY FOR THESE FELLOW WORKERS.**



The Brethren Mission is also concerned for the physical needs of those around them and the medical ministry is a part of this concern. Doctors, pastors and missionaries work together for healing through anointing, prayer and medicine. **PRAY FOR THESE SPECIALISTS.**



The Brethren Mission is the church and so over all we should remember this part of the work—that is, the members of the various congregations that make up the Brethren Church in India. **PRAY FOR THESE MEMBERS OF THE BODY.**

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR MISSIONARY

By Jeffery E. Gulleson

How should you pray for your missionary? What is his greatest need?

I am convinced that a missionary's greatest need is staying power. If you learn how to pray effectively for his staying power, you will be accomplishing much for the kingdom of God.

Let me explain.

Recently I returned home on furlough after six years in Indonesia. I was surprised how much had changed—new products, new TV shows, new styles. But some things hadn't changed. Milk of Magnesia was still on the bathroom shelf, Cheerios on the breakfast table, and Hank Aaron still slugging home runs like clockwork. All of these possess what sales people call "staying power."

On the mission field, staying power is tragically rare. A missionary's first term is a four-year course in language and culture. The second term is spent in learning to minister successfully. By the third term he should be a proficient missionary. Yet only 25% of our workers in Indonesia have stayed until the third term.

Of course, some are led to other ministries and some become sick. But most just lack staying power, a lack usually related to some weakness in their personal lives.

So when you pray for your missionary, focus on the areas which have most to do with his staying power.

First, you should pray that he will **mature spiritually.**

For four years I attended a Bible school in Canada that was similar to an army camp. Every day at 6:30 a bell signaled time for personal devotions. At 9:30 in the evening another bell signaled time for evening devotions. Yet, after four years of such regimentatioin, the "flesh" was no more willing to fellowship with God than before. In Madura our every effort to have a systematic devotional life has been challenged by the devil. Devotions at night put us to sleep, after breakfast they are interrupted, and even our time before breakfast must be guarded carefully.

So pray for your missionaries' devotional life, confession of sin, progress of his inner man, that he might mature spiritually. Only those who have a daily, living relationship with Jesus Christ will survive.

When you pray also focus on your missionary's need to **grow intellectually.** Mental stagnation may not always wipe him out, but it is a step in that direction.

After a lengthy language school one missionary remarked, "Thank goodness language school is over!" Too many missionaries mean it. No more memorizing new words, noting interesting idioms, proverbs or increasing a knowledge of grammatical rules. If your missionary thinks he finished language study in his second year on the field, he has folded up shop intellectually.

And beyond language there are the geographical, cultural, anthropological and political spheres of his adopted land that should be investigated. His whole ministry, too, could and should be improving by reading and correspondence courses on such subjects as homiletics, speed reading, teaching, anthropology, journalism, church planting, etc. So pray he will grow intellectually.

How many missionaries fail to stay **healthy** physically! When cholera, typhoid, and malaria knock at every door and dysentery is called an occupational disease, you can't be too careful. Some missionaries just forget that there are 732 million species of germs that don't want him on the field. He doesn't keep the open drainage clean,



flies feast on his apple pie and toys pass from the dirty floor into children's innocent mouths. Always someone is sick in his home.

Thankfully my wife is a nut on cleanliness. And it wasn't easy teaching our Indonesian helpers just how clean, clean meant. The battle raged for months. Finally my wife knew she was winning. She saw the cook scrubbing a defeathered chicken with scrub brush and laundry soap! That chicken would make sanitary soup!

You must watch how you eat, too. After six weeks in Indonesia I greatly anticipated my first Christmas meeting with all the Javanese dainties that followed. I really ate up! Glutenous rice cakes, fried bananas, vanilla tea—the works. The next morning I lost everything: a Christmas meal, a week of language study and lots of that invigorating strength of a new missionary.

The need for just plain common sense or carefulness comes in here too. For several years my wife urged me to wear a helmet when riding the scooter. No way! Helmets are hot! The wind past my ears at 40 mph—that's living!

Bovine hazard

And so I went on my stubborn way until a cow (Madurese, brown, big, frightened) got in my way. My head decided to hit the ground first in order to protect the rest of my body. Large head and face cuts, skinless knees and elbows, stiff muscles, several days in bed. Thankfully I'm alive. But think of a prayer letter heading, "Missionary Wiped Out by a Cow!"

Finally to continue in his career a missionary must **prosper psychologically.** Especially pray for a PMA (Positive Mental Attitude).

I once heard of a senior missionary, who was always comparing his adopted country with his homeland. He became very negative and in fact depressed the younger missionary working with him. The children were brats, the hotels were lousy, the meat was tough, the officials were corrupt, the buses always broke down. And even though I heard this story and saw this weakness, I often fall into the same trap.

For months I drove my scooter 30 miles every Tuesday afternoon to a meeting in a near-by city. And every Tuesday afternoon it rained. Finally in the midst of an afternoon drizzle I rebelled, "Why does it have to rain every lousy Tuesday afternoon." A voice within answered, "You ought to be thankful it's not pouring." The bright side is the right side to look at. And missionaries must find the bright side if they want staying power.

If the bright side is elusive, the ability to laugh will rescue the perishing missionary. I once heard of a missionary in Africa who, after a night camping out, started morning chores by stepping on a poisonous snake. Instead of collapsing he listened to the snake yell, "Baily, couldn't you find anywhere else in Africa to put your foot down this morning?"

So enlarge those "bless the missionary" prayers. Pray for those areas of his life that will increase his staying power. Remember he won't do any good for the people he is serving if he doesn't grow and mature himself.

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WHY MARK FIRST?

The Bible translator becomes involved in decisions of priority—

By J. Beekman

The first portion of Scripture to be translated into an aboriginal language is usually the Gospel of Mark. The question is often asked as to why this particular book is selected.

Mark is usually selected as the first full Scripture portion to be published because:

1. it is one of the Gospels and it presents the person and work of Jesus Christ,
2. it is shorter than any other Gospel,
3. it contains fewer figures of speech,
4. it has more narrative,
5. it has a relatively interesting and easy beginning,
6. it contains fewer references to the Old Testament and to Jewish culture, and
7. it presents the Gospel in simple direct terms.

The different features mentioned above are advantages both to the beginning translator and to the beginning reader.

The first three Gospels present the message in terms of narrative accounts of the key events in the life of Jesus Christ, rather than by involved dissertations about Him. The translation of at least one Gospel therefore lays the ground-work

(continued on next page)

for the better understanding of the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles. The Gospel of John with its extended passages built around abstract and metaphorical terms such as life, light, love, abiding, bread of life and water of life, is difficult for the beginning translator. So also are the closely reasoned and highly abstract passages of the epistles. The beginning translator needs to work up to these portions by graded steps. Since narratives and parables are couched in everyday, more easily found vocabulary, he can start best with a gospel.

Mark is the shortest Gospel and therefore requires less time to prepare. The translator needs to check and recheck his first work several times for until quality is assured,, it is more important than quantity. Since a consultant examines and questions every verse for both intelligibility and exegetical faithfulness in the initial stages, a longer book would not only take more time but present even more passages requiring further revision, which can prove frustrating to the one eager to get something to the people. Furthermore, a shorter book is more likely to maintain the interest of new readers.



Jerry and Cheryl Grieve with Kilba translator working on the translation of Mark.

Figures of speech are more difficult for the beginning translator to render in a form that will be both exegetically correct and intelligible to the readers. The "new birth," presented in the Gospel of John, has been mistranslated by some who were to eager to introduce this important truth at the very start of their translation experience. Figures, other than metaphor, such as metonymy, synecdoche, and rhetorical questions, are not without their problems for both the translator and the reader.

Narrative is generally easier to translate and easier to understand than doctrinal passages. The latter carry more difficult logical relations and contain more abstract concepts which are difficult to translate and which are less likely to hold the interest of beginning readers. Mark has a greater percentage of tense, vivid narrative and less sermonizing than the other gospels.

Of the four Gospels, Mark has, relatively speaking, an easier and more interesting beginning. Matthew begins with a long wearisome genealogy. Luke starts well, but then shifts to some difficult allusions to the Old Testament and Jewish customs. John begins with a philosophical treatment of the Word and the Light. Although Mark's beginning is considered the easiest, this is not true for new readers unless the first few verses are given special study. In the first three verses, four persons are introduced, namely, Jesus Christ, Isaiah, God, and John the Baptist. Only Isaiah and Jesus Christ are specifically named; the others are referred to by pronouns or other means. Another unnamed group is referred to with the second person plural in verse 3 found in the verb "prepare" which is rendered "prepare ye." It is not an easy matter to keep all these participants clear when they are referred to by pronominal references at the very beginning of the book. However, when the participants are kept clear, and when we include in our consideration the verses that follow, then Mark has the easiest beginning.

References to the Old Testament and Jewish customs assume that the readers share the same cultural background with the author of the book. This is not the case with those for whom we translate. They belong to a different age with different customs and beliefs. Many of the Jewish customs and allusions to the Old Testament will not be understood until explained by the translator. It is preferable, therefore, to begin with a book which can be read and understood more easily and with less dependence upon explanations by others such as the translators.

The message of salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ are presented quite directly in Mark's Gospel. In Mark 2:10 , we read that "the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." In 10:45, we read: "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." Here is a clear presentation of the substitutionary character of Christ's atonement. Then too, the details of Christ's death and resurrection are clearly presented in chapters 15 and 16. Moreover, the personal testimony of the translator adds to the information of the text as he explains what the work of Christ has meant in his own life.

All of these factors added together have led most translators to begin the translation of the New Testament with the Gospel of Mark.

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RELIGION IN REVIEW

1974—a leaderless parade

by Norman B. Rohrer,
Director EP News Service

The earth has once more looped the sun, spinning off a remarkable year in which the hope of the Gospel shined brighter against a background of increasing despair.

Scandals, feuding and resignations rattled the foundations of Western governments; inflation widened the gulf between the haves and havenots in a global community of 3.8 billion people that increased by 70,000,000 in 1974.

Morally, 1974 skidded: nudity stripped away inhibitions; shame was in shorter supply; heroin usage increased but alcohol consumption became the number one scourge among youth. One of every four U.S. marriages ended in divorce as the old tradition of marriage then babies was reversed by teen couples released from precedent.

Fewer American youth considered religion "a very important value." Suicides reached epidemic proportions among youth; starvation took more than 15,000 lives every day.

Recycling of limited resources, begun largely by church groups, caught on in 1974. Victory over smallpox was announced. Christmas tree lights illuminated the car-strangled cities again as the big E turned back from ecology to energy.

Non-religious funerals were a growing trend in 1974. Sexists asked, "Is God 'He'?" Homosexuals were ordained to the Christian ministry and women confirmed as priests.

1974 was a breakthrough for women politicians: 18 were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; the number of women state legislators increased from 305 in 1969 to 587 in 1974.

TV addiction leveled off as sans-tube family activities grew more popular. Americans spent $27.2 billion for booze ($3.1 million an hour); cigarette smoking increased; the popularity of large families declined; 23 million Americans lived below the "poverty line"; thousands bore witness to "evil spirits"; and 88 per cent of high school students polled believed public officials were dishonest.

The man who opened the year at the National Prayer Breakfast declaring that "Americans should spend more time listening to what God wants the nation to do rather than telling God what they would like America to be," resigned in disgrace after his situation ethics were uncovered. The new Commander-in-Chief (first in nearly 200 years to be elected without vote of the citizenry) asked the nation to "confirm me with your prayers."

The year opened with 14,000 Christian students on their knees at Urbana, Illinois. Young people by the thousands met throughout the year in corn field Jesus rallies and home assemblies, eschewing "churchianity" while embracing Christianity. The Senate Joint Resolution 183 called Americans to a "National day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer," on April 30.

Denominations

Church leaders who survived the conflicts of the 1960's headed into new controversies: Missouri-Synod Lutherans clashed over Biblical inspiration; bishops of many denominations complained that young ministers were unwilling to endure humdrum pastoral duties; gift increases of 7.7 per cent were not enough to offset the 9.6 per cent drop in the U.S. dollar's purchasing power; 11 women Episcopalians in Philadelphia shocked their church by performing the Eucharist; the Vatican tried to squelch a drive to make the Roman Catholic church more democratic; clergy dropouts continued to plague each denomination.

Television, "the beast among us," offered ratings showing that it is "the most important influence on American lives today."

Southern Presbyterians weighed union with other churches at its 114th General Assembly; U.S. Lutherans and Jews met to seek stronger relationships and remove historical barriers; Commissioners of the United Church of Christ approved a plan of union with the Anglican Church of Canada and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The spotlight on the Charismatics dimmed (some denominations strongly condemned them) but they continued to flourish in 1974. Over-extending and

securities violations crippled retirement communities and such vast evangelical enterprises as those led by Rex Humbard, Charles Blair, and Jerry Falwell. Sunday schools in evangelical churches grew larger while those of liberal churches in general declined. A total of 62.4 per cent of Americans held a religious belief.

A Unitarian minister in 1974 prepared a "Rite for Divorce" formalizing a couple's "I Do's" to become two instead of one. Rev. Sun Myung Moon's heretical "One World Crusade," spawned in Korea, aggrandized in North America. Bank loans for churches dwindled and abuses in the church bond market were greater than in any other area of the financial securities market.

Christ's prayer that believers "all may be one" seemed less remote than in other years. And what unity was lacking in organization was realized in spiritual fellowship.

Bearers of Christ's Good News to a lost world reaped both victory and defeat throughout 1974. In a historic switch, Chinese Christians in Singapore sent $1,000 to a low-income Spanish-speaking Texas church. The total of national mission agencies in Asia rose to 200. India's runaway population kept the nation in the shadow of mass starvation but the people responded to missionary outreach.

Korea hosted Explo '74, Campus Crusade for Christ's five-day training seminar which drew 303,000 registrants from 78 countries. Missions in Japan were handicapped by inflation pegged at 23 per cent increases; her Protestant population dropped; the energy crisis altered for the first time Japan's traditional job-for-a-lifetime arrangement, threatening to force the population into a free-floating society with its impending moral dangers.

From Africa at the Lausanne Conference by outspoken nationals critical of missions suggesting that perhaps America should "look to your own country."

China's allegiance to the "Little Red Book" lessened; Europe was called a "post-Christian society," making missionary effort difficult (for the first time there were more Baptists in Asia than in Europe). Evangelicals in Italy started the "Cornelius Corps"; Spain's evangelicals staged the first Iberian Congress on Evangelization for some 1,000 participants representing the country's 500 congregations and 35,000 evangelical believers—a first for Spain.

Soviet Christians carried out programs of evangelism in a society where religion has the same status as pornography. Bible smugglers and radio broadcasts in Russian from outside abounded.

The eyes of the world were on Lausanne, Switzerland in mid-1974 as 4,000 people (2,700 participants) from 150 countries met for 10 days to discuss in plenary sessions and in 80 strategy groups how to build new relationships between missionaries and national Christians in emerging churches. 85 per cent of the participants signed the 3,000-word "Lausanne Covenant" affirming their understanding of the purpose of God, the authority of the Bible, the church and evangelism, social responsibility and the return of Christ. Honorary Congress Chairman Billy Graham was afterward elected interim chairman of a 48-member "continuation committee" directing the publication of Congress documents and a documentary film.

Africa presented a paradox: Outspoken nationals critical of missions suggested that perhaps Americans should "look to your own country," as the United Methodist Bishop of Angola declared. Libyan Chief of State Col. Muammar el-Quaddafi declared that the African continent must rid itself of "European" Christianity which, he said, was a "tool of colonialism"—all this against reports of unprecedented growth among churches.

In Sierra Leone the largest evangelistic crusade in the country's history culminated a series of significant spiritual events. John Wilson, a resident of Kampala, said Uganda was "turning to God" in remarkable ways.

Bible sales boomed in Ghana. More than 1,800 decisions for Christ were recorded in Nigeria at a six-day evangelistic crusade sponsored by the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

The dreaded onslaught of mass starvation and epidemics touched nations from Ethiopia to the sub-Sahara where babies and adults died by the hundreds and where prolonged drought threatened an estimated five million people. Relief agencies invested huge amounts of money and man-power to fight the scourge.

This year the first-ever "Association of Evangelical Christians in the Sudan" was formed—a move typical of encouraging trends among Christian nationals in Africa. Evangelist Arthur Blessitt said he would like to see Americans as "people conscious" as black Africans.

National missions thrived among the 277.1 million people of the Latin American mainland while traditional missionary enterprise slowed. A native of Peru declared that the church in the "Third World" is "acutely embarrassed" at the image of Christianity held in those parts of the globe, and that it was "attempting to live down and out-live the commonly held view that Christianity was in some way a part of the 'imperialistic plot' to dominate the world."

In Rio de Janeiro, 225,000 Brazilians jammed Maracana Stadium — world's largest — to hear Evangelist Billy Graham.

In Los Angeles, Dr. Graham told a Hollywood Bowl audience celebrating his big start in evangelism 25 years earlier, that the "time is short" for America.

31 churches in 17 states tested a special summer evangelism project via newspaper ads; the Evangelization Forum was begun, looking ahead to evangelistic activity during the United States' bicentennial. The National Association for Media Evangelism was organized. Hundreds of evangelists and evangelism projects such as "Power 1974" in England enlisted millions of people in support of the Christian message. They found

people craving moral and spiritual leadership in the complicated world of 1974.

Education

Secularized education left little room for the Christian message, although notable exceptions were recorded: Gideons distributed New Testaments in 20 Hoosier elementary schools; the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that prayers in connection with public school ceremonies do not violate the Constitution; Minnesota's attorney general ruled that a church can require that students be released from Public schools for religious instruction up to one day a week; and "teaching about religion" was promoted in 25 of the 50 United States.

On the debit side: Indiana officials fired a teacher for reading the Bible to his mathematics classes; a North Carolina teacher quit when officials threatened to fire her for arranging a minute of silent prayer with first-grade pupils; the California Board of Education voted to replace a reference to the Bible in a science textbook with a reference to the theory of evolution; intense opposition arose to meet President Ford's advocacy of Federal aid for parochial and private schools with state money and Florida public schools were ordered to stop scheduling spring vacations around Easter week end to eliminate the "direct and immediate effect of advancing religion."

College costs rose again (up 35 per cent in four years) and Christian schools faced cutbacks as inflation reduced purchasing power.

Publishing

Forty-two per cent of American families bought Bibles or other religious books in 1974 as the hot market for evangelical books continued. Paper shortages plagued major printing houses, but something new emerged: World Home Bible League's "take home" Bibles in motel rooms. Highflight began putting Bibles in airliners and the United Bible Societies approved a record $10.9 million to translate and produce Scriptures worldwide.

Sixteen publishing houses founded the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. The Evangelical Press Association, Associated Church Press and Catholic Press Association rejoiced over Congress' Postal Bill S.411 which modified exorbitant mail costs for periodicals. Sunday school literature faced a 10 per cent cost rise.

The global "Scripture language count" stood at 1,526 among a total of 5,687 languages listed by Wycliffe Bible Translators' updated **Ethnologue.** After 20 years of work, new Hungarian translations of the Old and New Testaments were ready for the presses. Christian publishing flourished in Russia. Paper shortages in Britain cut into Bible production by 20 per cent but the humming presses continued to add an important dimension to the outreach of the Gospel worldwide.

Broadcasting

Since there is no roof on the world, the long arms of radio and television reached where missionaries could not go. Hundreds of weekly broadcasts were aimed at the Soviet Union, China and remote outposts. 1,000 broadcasters began the year at the National Religious Broadcasters' Washington, D.C. convention seeking ways to update their medium and expertise.

Television, "the beast among us," offered ratings showing that it is "the most important influence on American lives today."

Billy Graham successfully tied two cities together by TV and visual amplification for a simultaneous crusade in tidewater Virginia. A new TV series titled "Search" and featuring Bruce Larson was launched as a follow-up to Key 73's "More Than You Are" program. Moody Bible Institute's purchase of KCFA AM–FM in Spokane raised its radio network to seven stations. Back to the Bible Broadcast celebrated 35 years on the air; so did John Jess. Radio was still the best bargain in global evangelism.

Famine

Twelve nations were on the verge of bankruptcy in 1974 and world food reserves were adequate for only 27 days. Students hiked and biked to lobby for food funds; church leaders called their people to meatless diets and to repentance for past sins of omission; members of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee, jolted by a report on the helplessness of the world to feed its people, fell into silent prayer "too overwhelmed to speak."

"Americans should spend more time listening to what God wants the nation to do rather than telling God what they would like America to be."

Four agencies (Food for the Hungry, World Gospel Crusades, King's Garden and the Seattle Association of Evangelicals) dedicated a C-47 airplane to carry food, medicine and gospel literature to crisis areas of the globe.

A Jewish leader likened apathy toward hunger by rich nations to world apathy to the Nazi slaughter of Jews a generation ago. Bread for the World went national to openly campaign politically for the poor and hungry. Churchmen pressed reluctant government officials to reserve 10 per cent of exportable commodities for food programs. A World Food Conference in Rome created a World Food Council to coordinate the global war on hunger. "We must act soon," U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned. "If we do not act boldly, disaster will result from a failure of will." The poor, said a missionary, may take up arms to demand their inheritance if it is denied them.

Deaths

Notable personalities who passed from the scene in 1974 included UPI Religion Editor Louis Cassels; Frank Dewey Lockman, founder-president

of the Lockman Foundation and sponsor of the New American Standard Bible; Ralph Freed, veteran Christian broadcaster with Trans World Radio; Clate A. Risley, president of the World Wide Christian Education Ministries (shot to death in a holdup attempt near his Chicago office); L. Richard Burnap, book editor of David C. Cook Co.; Virginia L. Bell, widow of L. Nelson Bell; George R. Warner, retired president of the World Gospel Mission.

1974—what a year! a year of Watergate, amnesty, Lausanne and inflation . . . a year of the PLO, EPA, SLA and WIN! . . . a year of civilization which Malcolm Muggeridge described as being in an "advanced stage of decomposition" . . . a year in which Dr. Benjamin Spock envied "parents who see God clearly and concretely, because they can then explain Him in a way that is easy for a child to understand."

The world of 1974 marched to a hundred different signals in a ragged column, but the Light that first came to Bethlehem two thousand years ago still guided those with faith to see.

O Splendor of God's glory bright,
From light eternal bringing light,
Thou Light of light, light's living Spring,,
True Day, all days illumining.

—St. Ambrose of Milan

RULES OF THE GAME

An unknown Chaplain is credited with being the author of this letter, addressed to a young man about to enter the arena of life:



I am giving you the ball, Son, and naming you the quarterback for your team in the game of life. I am your coach, so I'll give it to you straight.

There is only one schedule to play. It lasts all your life, but consists of only one game. It is a long game with no time out and no substitutions. You play the whole game—all your life—all the time.

You'll have a great backfield. You're calling the signals, but the three other fellows in the backfield with you have great reputations. They are named Faith, Hope, and Charity.

You'll work behind a truly powerful line. End to End, it consists of Honesty, Loyalty, Courage, Devotion-to-Duty, Self-Respect, Cleanliness and Discipline.

The goalposts are the Gates of Heaven.

God is the referee and sole official. He makes all the rules and there is no appeal from them.

There are ten rules. You know them as the Ten Commandments, and you play them strictly in accordance with your own religion.

There is also an important ground rule. It is, "As ye would that men should do you, do ye even so to them."

Here is the ball. It is your immortal soul! Hold fast to it. Now, Son, get in there and let's see what you can do with it.

Elkhart News

WORLD RELIEF REPORT

Pastor Phil Lersch, Chairman

Brethren World Relief Committee

[Following is a copy of the Christmas report-letter sent by Dr. Everett S. Graffam, Executive Vice-President of the World Relief Commission. In concise form, it highlights how some of our Brethren World Relief dollars have helped people with crucial needs this past year.]

Dear Phil and Brethren friends:

Christmas greetings to you in Christ's name.

As we approach this important Christian holiday, I am reminded of the good will expressed by so many of our friends, especially the generous response to special appeals for victims of African drought and Hurricane Fifi that blasted Honduras. BECAUSE OF YOUR HELP in 1974, we were able to minister to people who were hurting in many areas of the world.

Here are just a few of the many different ways:

(1) DISASTER RELIEF IN HONDURAS—To date over $100,000 sent to seven Evangelical church and mission agencies has brought emergency aid to those suffering so cruelly. WRC is keeping one Missionary Aviation Fellowship plane shuttling personnel and supplies into remote, isolated areas. One mission group distributed $6,000 worth of black beans in five-pound bags.

(2) SURVIVAL ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN FAMINE VICTIMS —Nearly $200,000 in cash and $250,000 worth of vitamins, hospital and medical equipment has gone to ten famine stricken countries in Africa just to keep the people alive. A search for increased water supplies goes on continually.

(3) MEDICAL CARE OF CHILDREN—Thousands of in-patients and out-patients receive medical and surgical care at WRC's 100-bed Hoa Khanh Children's Hospital IN VIETNAM. IN BANGLADESH, nutritional clinics minister to 7,000 children. A total of $500,000 in cash and $500,000 worth of medicine, vitamins, food and equipment has gone into these two countries to help in the Saviour's name.

WE SINCERELY THANK YOU! WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

May the wondrous joy of Christmas remain in your heart in the coming year as you are "enriched in everything to all bountifulness" (II Cor. 9:11.)

Yours in the JOY of His service,
(Signed) Everett S. Graffam

[P.S. BY PHIL: If you thought about helping out when the disasters hit in Africa and Honduras, but just never got around to it, it is still not too late to make your gift count in helping to replace funds that were dispersed immediately when the needs arose. Mark your special contribution for "African Drought" or "Honduras." Then either send it through your church treasurer or send it directly to:

Mr. George Kerlin, Treas.
1318 E. Douglas
Goshen, Indiana 46526

This kind of giving for emergency needs of others should not replace your regular offerings to the church or denominational needs. Give this "extra gift" out of gratitude for our abundance . . . and out of deep concern for those who suffer so much with so little just to sustain life.]

news ... from the Brethren

Memorials



STOGSDILL

Mrs. Grace Stogsdill, 79, of Cerro Gordo, Illinois, passed away November 22, 1974 in the St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur, Illinois.

She is survived by two daughters, Marie Atteberry, Cerro Gordo, and Charlotte Helm, Hammond, Illinois; four sons, Otis of Decatur, Illinois, Rev. Clarence, Tucson, Arizona; Rev. Robert, Cerro Gordo, and Rev. Claude, Warsaw, Indiana; 22 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. She was a faithful member of the Cerro Gordo Brethren Church where she served as deaconess. Services were conducted in the church on November 24, 1974 with burial in the Cerro Gordo Cemetery. Pastor William Livingston officiated.

* * *

REICHANADTER

Mr. Louis H. Reichanadter, 87 passed away on September 17, 1974. His wife, son and daughter survive. Rev. Brian Moore officiated at his funeral.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Ardmore, Indiana—5 by baptism

Canton Trinity—10 by letter
3 baptism and letter
6 by baptism

Weddings

MAYHUGH–HIMES

Miss Connie Mayhugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mayhugh and Garry Himes, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Himes were married November 15, 1974 in a double ring ceremony held in the Warsaw Church. Rev. Paul Tinkel and Rev. Claude Stogsdill officiated.

* * *

MARTIN–YODER

Miss Starr Martin became the bride of Daniel Yoder on October 26, 1974 in the sanctuary of the Warsaw Church. Rev. Claude Stogsdill officiated at the service. Starr is a member of the Milford Brethren Church: Daniel belongs to the Warsaw Church. They are making their home in Milford.

* * *

BRANDENBURG–WARREN

Miss Tammy Brandenburg and Mr. Ed Warren were married November 30 in the church sanctuary.

Mrs. Warren is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Brandenburg and Mr. Warren is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warren of Claypool. They will be living in Claypool.

* * *

STRAUP–WENDT

Janet Straup and Steve Wendt were united in marriage November 2 in the First Brethren Church of Ardmore with Rev. Brian Moore officiating. They are living in Memphis, Tennessee where Steve is stationed with the Navy. Steve and Jan are both members of the Ardmore Church.

Goldenaires

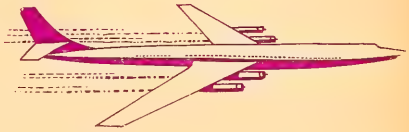
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wilkin observed their 60th Wedding Anniversary December 23, 1974. They are members of Lanark Illinois Brethren Church.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Oris Collins celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary December 24, 1974. They are members of Oakville, Indiana, Brethren Church.

WORK AND WORSHIP TOUR TO SOUTH AMERICA





MISSIONS
TOUR
1975



GO YE! This command is on our church emblem and to be effective we need to go with power, His Power! Our Brethren Laymen sponsored tour this year is to fulfill this commission. Our power is in the Gospel, His Word, the blood and the Holy Spirit. We feel definitely directed by the Holy Spirit by the way our Work and Worship Tour is falling in place.

1. We were led to select a period of time for the tour which lets this experience climax in Eden Bible Institute at the very time of their annual Spiritual General Conference.
2. We find several participants especially led to participate just now. We Praise the Lord for the youth. We admire such an interest as found in Becky Grumbling, who devoted her vacation last summer to helping in Tucson, where Bill and Fran Curtis are developing the new Spanish bi-lingual out-reach.
3. We are gratified by the Laymens vision in sponsoring Becky for this trip.
4. Our Brethren Quarterly lesson topics will be **lived out** those three Sundays we are in South America.

January 26, An **Empowered** People! By Jet Power we will share God's Power in Colombia and Argentina.

February 2, A **Worshiping** People! It is a Worship Tour in the fullest sense. We will fellowship, sing, praise, study and pray together with these our brethren and prospective sons and daughters of God. Colossians 3:16—Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. This is the golden text for that Sunday.

February 9, A **Serving** People! Titus 3:14. And let us also learn to maintain **good works** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. We will work and serve because we love the people and because we believe James 2:17—Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead, being alone.

This is a tremendous opportunity to live out, on the spot, our Sunday School lessons and God's great commission. The whole Brotherhood can live it with us!

All I can add at this point is a sincere request of BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US and all the souls we will be in fellowship with.

In Christian Love and Service,
Jim Payne
Your National Layman President

THE BRETHREN PUBLISHING COMPANY PROV



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these inflationary times.

ce THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST in every Brethren home.

BE NEWS

THE FAMILY REACHING FAMILIES

Throughout the New Testament, the church is characterized as the family of God. In Romans 8:14-17 Paul asserts that:

> . . . all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the Sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ . . .
>
> (New American Standard Bible)

To those who confess Jesus as Lord, God grants membership in His own family. Peter calls God's family a "chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of God's own possession . . ." (I Peter 2:9 NASB). Thus, throughout the New Testament people are called to repentance and rebirth into the family of God. They are called to experience a new life, a new brotherhood, a new purpose.

We find ourselves in the midst of an age of great uncertainty. The economic picture is scary. The political scene is blurred. People are constantly being confronted by shortages, rising prices, shrinking incomes and other signs of instability. Perhaps now people are more open to the gospel message and its promise of stability than in recent memory.

People of all ages can be brought into the family of God . . . a family that promises to satisfy their needs. We want our churches to grow. The best way to make it happen is by steadfastly working to discover human needs and offering—through the family of God—to help meet them.

There are many agencies which offer services and materials which can be used by churches in meeting the needs of human families. The following may be contacted for free literature:

(1) Family Service Association of America
44 East 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

(2) Family Concern, Inc.*
Box 14249
Omaha, NE 68114

(3) Association For Childhood Education Internat.
3615 Wisconsin Ave., NW.
Washington, DC 20016

(4) Child Study Association of America
50 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010

(5) The American Institute of Family Relations
5287 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90027

(6) American Social Health Association
1740 Broadway
New York, NY 10019

(7) Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.
810 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019

(8) Family Life Publications, Inc.**
Box 427
Saluda, NC 28773

(9) National Council on Family Relations***
1219 University Ave., SE.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

* Primarily deals with Christian aspects of family life

** Excellent source of pre-marital counseling and compatibility test instruments

*** NCFR publishes two excellent quarterly journals: (1) **Journal of Marriage and the Family** and (2) **Family Coordinator.**

NOTES

In the fall of 1973 the Board of Christian Education began a new service to the churches by offering our music for review or use. Since that time we have acquired a great deal of music that is not included in the Music Index. Many of you may not realize the many octavos that are also available in this service. Each church received at least one Music Index but if you want another just write to me at the Board of Christian Education.

The following is the **first** suppliment to the Music Index—slip it out and paste it onto the correct pages of your Index.

Sherry Van Duyne

YOUTH-GROUPS AND CHOIRS

	NAME	ARRANGER (AUTHOR)/PUBLISHER	NO. COPIES	PRICE
SATB x	**Beyond a Dream** (11) Come as a Child, Go Forth, Go In Peace, The Joy Song, etc.	(Yantis)/Word	2	$1.95
SATB x,+	**Sound Generation - God's Love** (10) God's Love, Happy Day Melody, Higher Ground, Life in Jesus, Welcome Back, etc.	Coates/Benson	2	1.95
SATB x,+	**Free Spirit - Follow Jesus** (10+) Didn't He Shine, Follow Jesus, God's Love, Got any Rivers, Let Him In Today, etc.	Huff/Benson	12	1.95
SATB x	**The Archers - Life In Jesus** (8) Life In Jesus, For Me For You, God's Throne, Put On Jesus, God's Love, I've a Friend, etc.	/Benson	2	1.95
SATB x,+	**This Land . . . Our Land** (7 medleys) Armed Forces Medley, My Country Tis of Thee, This Land is Your Land, etc.	D. Johnson/Benson	2	1.95
SATB x,+	**Sound Alliance - Let My Light Shine** (10+) Light Medley, Can I Trust Him With My Life, Spirit Medley, Love Medley, 23rd Psalm, etc.	March/Benson	1	1.95
SATB x,+	**Fun and Easy** Vol. 1 (12+) Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, I Have a Wonderful Lord, The Church Roll On, God Is So Good, I Say, etc.	D. Johnson/Benson	1	1.00
SATB x	**The Church Is Singing Again** (6 Medleys) Singin', Walkin', Deliverance, Love, Light and Spirit	(Carmichael)/Lexicon	3	1.95
SATB x,+	**Music For the Young Church** Vol.II (10) O Brother Man, Our Father, The Beatitudes, Thine Be The Glory, etc.	/Word	2	1.95

ADULT CHOIRS

SATB x,+	**Celebration II** (10+) Come Thou Fount, Spirit of the Lord Medley, Here's One, Shine Medley, Because He Lives, etc.	Huff/Benson	2	1.95
SATB x	**Music for A Sunday Night** Vol. I Amazing Grace—Mini Cantata	Mercer/Benson	4	1.50
SATB x	**Music for A Sunday Night** Vol. II Amazing Love—Mini-Cantata	Mercer/Benson	1	1.50

(continued on next page)

SATB x	**Hymns of Heritage** (9) Dear Lord and Master, I Love Thee, The King Shall Come, O Lord Divine What Hast Thou Done, etc.	Ehret/Word	2	1.95
SATB x,+	**The Old Fashioned Meeting** (10+) Then Jesus Came and Only Believe, Lead Me to Calvary, Amazed, Jesus, He Lives, etc.	Bartlett/Rodeheaver	2	1.95

MUSICALS

SATB x,+	**Hey, God Listen!** A children talk to God Musical	Gibson & Krause/Benson	2	1.50
SATB x,B	**God's People**	Kaiser & Brown/Word	3	2.50

TWO PART AND TRIOS

TB x,B	**Men** (11) Kneel At The Cross, Leave It There, Higher Ground, Jesus I Come, Stand Up For Jesus, etc.	Hall/Benson	4	1.50

OCTAVOS

BENSON PUBLISHING COMPANY

SATB x	"Easter Fanfaire Anthem	Corina/Benson	1	30¢
SSATTBB x	"The Twenty-Third Psalm"	(Marsh)/Benson	1	30¢
SATB x	"Alleluia"	(Mercer)/Benson	2	30¢
SATB x Kids	"This Little Light of Mine"	(Powell)/Benson	2	35¢
SA(T)B x	"Love Lifted Me" [Youth]	Rowe-Allen/Benson	2	35¢
SATB x	"If That Isn't Love"	Rambo (Mercer)/Benson	1	30¢
SATB x	"Spiritual Medley"	(Jeffrey's Mercer)/Benson	1	25¢
SATB x	"Love Lifted Me"	(Reynolds)/Benson	1	35¢

WORD PUBLISHING

Two Part x	"Your Life Has A Plan" (Young Church Series)	Turner/Word	2	30¢
SATB x	"Easter Song"	Herring/Word	2	35¢
SATB x	"Here's One"	(Burroughs)/Word	2	35¢
SATB x	"Hallelujah! What a Savior!"	Butler/Word	2	35¢
SATB	"A Song in the Air"	Lovelace/Word	2	35¢
SATB x,B	"The Morning Trumpet"	Livingston/Word	2	35¢
SATB x	"I'm Gonna Keep On Singin' "	Crouch/Lexicon	1	35¢

NEW FROM SWY

A brand new Y.E.S. training course for children's workers. Six cassettes—12 Sessions. The topics are as follows:

Cassette One, Side One Session 1	"I'M HERE ON TIME, WHERE'S MY POPSICLE?" What is a scriptural approach to children's and youth ministry? An introduction to the course and conversation highlights, building a foundation for the importance of ministering to children.
Cassette One, Side Two Session 2	WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SUNDAY SCHOOL IS NOT ENOUGH? Is there a need for the church to involve children in more than Sunday school? How do you correlate all the programs of the church so that your ministry is as effective as possible?
Cassette Two, Side One Session 3	"DID I DO GOOD?" What is a training program? What are its goals? What about the Ten Goals suggested by Success With Youth? And who's really responsible for the training of a child?
Cassette Two, Side Two Session 4	"NOTHING WAS DONE AT THE LAST MINUTE" A look at ways to organize your children's ministry, work with small groups of children and get the most benefit out of your adult leadership without wasting their time.
Cassette Three, Side One Session 5	SPONSORS NEED ENCOURAGMENT TOO A look at children's workers—their role, their responsibilities, how they discipline. Should they be formal or informal? And how can you recruit them, keep them motivated and excited?

Cassette Three, Side Two Session 6	"FIVE OR SIX LIVES IS A LOT FOR YOU TO BE INVOLVED IN" What is real life-involvement? What is leadership? What is servant-style leadership? What is a successful children's ministry?
Cassette Four, Side One Session 7	"WE DON'T TREAT INDIVIDUALS—WE TREAT FAMILIES" How important is the home? How can you relate to the family? How do you relate to non-Christian homes? How do you involve parents? How can you build trust?
Cassette Four, Side Two Session 8	COPYCATS AND FOLLOW THE LEADER: GAMES CHILDREN PLAY What is a Christian? What is evangelism? Can young children find Christ? What's the best way to reach them for Christ? What is involvement in the life of a child?
Cassette Five, Side One Session 9	ENJOY . . . ENJOY! A panorama of ideas on a variety of topics: Music, teaching methods, socials, creative expression, memory work, Bible translations . . . stimulating ideas for creatively ministering to children.
Cassette Five, Side Two Session 10	TOOT . . . TOOT . . . TOOT . . . "DO I GET MY AWARD?" What about the use of incentives, awards, prizes and rewards? Are they valuable or a waste of time and money? How can they build retationships and contribute to a child's learning experience?
Cassette Six, Side One Session 11	WHIRLYBIRDS AND JET CADETS: PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN THAT WORKS A look at these two services offered by SWY Publications, Inc., briefly showing how you can organize and begin these programs in your church.
Cassette Six, Side Two Session 12	TROUP, MILLS, STRANDBERG AND ROSS IS NOT A LAW FIRM, or LET'S TALK ABOUT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Dick Troup, Larry Mills, Arlene Strandberg and Doug Ross freely discuss the possibilities open to evangelical churches for children's ministry.

Cost: The set may either be purchased for $49.95 or rented for $4.50 from the B.C.E. Students' workbooks: 1-3 copies $1.25 each, 4-7 copies $1.00 each, 8 or more copies $.80 each.

ALSO FROM SWY

"What's the Good Word?" a series of six cassettes containing studies on Inspiration, Grace, Faith, Regeneration, Justification, Sanctification, Reconciliation, Propitiation, Adoption, Intercession and a special cassette on "How to Study the Bible." All are Biblical expositions by Pastor Warren Wiersbe of the Moody Church in Chicago. These are **not** sermons. Very good resource for youth study groups.
Cost: $34.95 or rent from BCE at $4.50

VBS - 1975

CLAP YOUR HANDS, JESUS IS LORD is the Biblical and exciting theme for Gospel Lights' '75 Summer Bible Ministries program. Brochures and sample kits will soon be available from the Brethren Bookstore.

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1, 1975:

What: 10 minute slide show with narration and background on a cassette tape

Topic: National BYC (Convention, Retreats, Discovery '74, Crusaders, and more)

Order from: Board of Christian Education
524 College Avenue
Ashland, Ohio 44805

List possible showing date and one alternate.

BYC

1974-5 National BYC registrations continue to come in. Advisors should get their group registered as early as possible to make the most of Advisor's Packs. National BYC members are receiving the official BYC Newspaper. College students should register as at-large members. Those college students on file are also receiving courtesy copies of **The Brethren Evangelist.**

ICL

Pastors and superintendents will soon be receiving brochures each of which will include a registration card for the ICL Seminar to be held in Ashland, August 11 and 12 just prior to General Conference. The ICL filmstrip* is now available for use in churches on a first come first served basis. Cost: Individual registration $22.00, 5-9 registrations from one church $20.00 each, 10 or more registrations from one church $18.00 each. This reduced cost is made possible by the support of the National Women's Missionary Society contribution.

The International Center for Learning Seminar will be a concentrated program of teacher/leader training conducted by professionals in the field. Don't miss this Seminar!

***NOTE:** The ICL filmstrip is geared to the usual Thursday through Saturday Seminar. Ours is a special case.

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Purpose and Meaning in Your Life

by Billy Graham



Our newspapers and our television screens bring news of a hundred and one dangerous problems that could explode into a world conflagration overnight. If it were not for that eighth wonder of the world, Henry Kissinger and his magic carpet, and the moral courage of Solzhenitsyn, we would have little hope from a human point of view. Each day seemingly adds to our already impressive number of problems and crises. A wave of violent crimes, mass murders, political kidnappings, massive drug abuse, rampant inflation, pollution, the breakdown of families, a jittery stock market—the list could go on and on.

What is wrong? It is almost a paradox that our nation, possessing all the economic affluence for enjoying life should stand on the very verge of disaster. As Americans we have at our beck and call all the necessary armaments for national security, but we are still insecure. We have all the material possessions deemed essential for happiness, but we are unhappy. Science has brought us close to a material paradise but we also stand on the precipice of hell itself. Millions of Americans—including many of you here today—are happy on the outside, but deep down something is missing: you are empty, bored, searching for purpose and meaning in life—or just putting your mind in neutral and taking a fatalistic attitude. A distinguished Britisher said recently that he visited an American home that seemed to have everything. There were three cars in the garage, a gorgeous living room laden with expensive furniture and a color TV set, a kitchen filled with the latest gadgets, and a large pool with a beautiful patio. However, the lady of the house was reading a book entitled,, "How to be happy."

Things have become so discouraging that one woman awaiting the birth of her baby was quoted in the press the other day as saying, "I don't want my child to be born in a world like this." A grandparent wistfully said to me, "I wonder what kind of world my grandchildren are going to live in. I'm afraid for them."

No one can deny the fact that our nation faces one of the gravest crises of its history. To be sure, there have been many earlier crises in our national life. We faced a crises during the Revolutionary War. We faced a crises during the Constitutional Convention. We faced a crisis during the Civil War. We survived all of these crises, and we emerged a stronger nation as a result. But now we face what I believe to be the most dangerous crisis in all of our history. Today we face not only the greatest atheistic ideology in history—but the greatest military machine the world has ever known. The various summit conferences and the talks of detente should not lull us into a false peace.

But the greatest of all threats is disintegration from within.

Some have accused me of being a moral alarmist who leans on the panic button. But I have traveled over the world too much, talked privately to many of our national leaders, and sifted the fears and concerns of the average American too many times to be overly optimistic about the state of our nation. It is now possible to agree with Oswald Spengler that this generation will see the decline of Western civilization. The fissures have appeared and we cannot cement them. The road ahead is down, unless God intervenes. I once asked my longtime friend John Steinbeck what would save America. He thought a moment and thoughtfully answered "a catastrophe."

I see nothing wrong about being a realist: seeing things as they are, "telling it like it is." Indeed, the worst course of action would be to bury our heads in the sand and shrink or hide from the dangers that threaten to engulf us.

What are these dangers? What is the nature of the crisis that faces America? Do we have the spiritual resources to resist the dangers and survive the crisis?

First of all, there is a political crisis! The furore over Watergate had a profound and unsettling effect on our nation. To me the most disturbing aspect of Watergate is not the crimes that have been committed, though they are bad enough. The most disturbing thing is the reaction of millions of young Americans who may become cynical and disillusioned with our whole governmental system. Unless this disease of the spirit is checked and reversed, it could undo us, we could come unglued. Democracy cannot survive when the people have

lost confidence in it,, and when confidence has been seriously eroded, no democracy can function efficiently and effectively.

Secondly, we face an economic crisis. We enjoy the highest standard of living of any nation in the history of the world. We are the best fed, the best clothed, and the best housed people in history. But we are also beginning to pay the price for our affluent living and our deficit spending. Just to pay the interest on the National Debt costs over one half billion dollars a week. Even an economic fool ought to see that this policy is leading to disaster. Inflation has hit every American. We have spent your money and our grandchildren's money. We may be the last of the big spenders. We are told that the energy crisis may be here to stay. We read in the press that a worldwide food crisis grips the world. We are even told that there may be a shortage of bread in this country by the end of the year. I was told the other day that the world is only one crop away from world-wide distaster. In other words, if we lose one crop, a famine will sweep the world on a scale that history has never known.

Thirdly, we face a wave of political terrorism. Some of my "contacts" tell me that it is only the beginning.

The problems that are mounting are very similar to those in pre-Hitler Germany.

But the supreme crisis that confronts us is neither political nor economic. It is moral and spiritual. And if we fail to solve this moral and spiritual crisis we may be doomed like the great nations of the past who failed to solve the crisis of the human spirit.

The signposts of the moral and spiritual crisis are all around us. Morally and spiritually our country is in mortal danger. Desperately millions are turning to Indian Gurus, the occult—and thank God millions of others are turning to the Bible. The popularity of "The Exorcist" indicates America's fascination with demons, evil and the devil.

The spiritual problem is an individual problem, not simply a political, governmental, educational or economic problem—it is one that rests with you and me. Society is made up of individuals, and there can and will be no lasting social reform until the individuals who make up society are reformed. The problems of society are caused by men and women in our society. We are a nation of individuals, and we are perilously close to reproducing the life-style of the people in the Book of Judges in the Old Testament, of whom it is said: "Every man did what was right in his own eyes." Take a hard look at America and all of its problems. It is not unlike a mirror in which you see yourself, with all the confusion, emptiness and self-centeredness that dwell in you. Jeremiah the prophet said, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

Jeremiah lived more than 2,500 years ago. His nation was passing through a series of crises very similar to our own. Like America, Judah had a long history, and had passed through many crises successfully. Jeremiah, however, said that the crisis of his own day was deeper than any previous one.

Like modern America, the people of Jeremiah's time faced external enemies. The nation was threatened by one of the mightiest empires the world had ever known . . . the Babylonian Empire under King Nebuchadnezzar. As a result of this threat, the nation was torn and divided politically. Some advocated surrender. Some sought an alliance with another strong nation to establish a balance of power. Still others wishfully thought nothing was wrong, and cried aloud: "Peace, peace, when there is no peace" (Jer. 8:11).

Like modern America, the people of Jeremiah's time were caught up in an economic crisis. Vast sums of money were spent to build fortified cities and to support large armies. Large amounts of money also went to pay tribute to foreign powers, and this meant the people were slowly being bled to death economically.

But also like modern America, the greatest crisis of the kingdom of Judah was moral and spiritual. Jeremiah said, "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush." God had richly blessed the nation in the past, but the people abandoned God and chose to go it alone. Jeremiah warned that God's judgment would surely overtake them if they did not repent and turn to God.

I am often asked, "Is America at the crossroads?" My answer is an emphatic "no!" I do not think that America is at a crossroads today. You see, the image of the crossroad implies that we are at a place where we can choose one or more roads to follow. I think we have already made a choice at a crossroads some time ago. I doubt that anyone can specify the exact time when this choice was made . . . but it has been made. We are well along the dead end road we deliberately chose to follow. In a nation which will pay an actor three million dollars to play in a pornographic film or make a heroine of an actress who displays her talents of sexual perversion on the screen; who not only makes heroes of people who are calling for the overthrow of the government, but pays them high fees for their speeches, then we are in deep trouble. America reminds me of a mental institution where the patients have taken over and have locked up the doctors. Our values are upside down. We are not thinking straight. The choice was made when America as a nation abandoned obedience to God and to His moral Law. We chose the road of secularism, hedonism, materialism, and moral permissiveness. It is true of course that there are millions of individual Americans who have not abandoned obedience to God or to His moral Law. It is also true that millions of people are responding to the proclamatation of the Gospel, but these encouraging facts should not lead us to self-delusion that all will work out; that the coming judgment will be averted; that our nation as a nation is following God.

The Bible contains many warnings. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans warned of the danger of deliberately forfeiting the truth of God and accepting "a lie." He said if they continued in this direction they could be sure they would reap the harvest of the evil they had sown. Three times Paul said, "God gave them up." There comes a point beyond which no nation, no community, no family, nor even an individual can go without

being judged by God. When we reach that point of moral decadence and idolatry, "God gives us up." Nothing is left but terrifying judgment, both in this life and in the life to come.

Like the people of the time of Jeremiah, God has mightily blessed us in the past. Our nation was founded on firm moral principles; our forefathers wanted this to be a nation in which God was honored. But what has happened? We have abandoned God, and we face the imminent danger of being abandoned by Him. — —

What is the answer to the crisis that faces us at this hour? In the midst of the current crisis the greatest mistake we could make would be to fail to diagnose the illness or to offer an effective remedy. To many in Jeremiah's day the answers seemed clear enough, or so they thought. If the crisis was political, the answer must surely be to take some sort of firm political action. If the crisis was economic, the answer must be to take some sort of economic action. But Jeremiah said these answers alone were futile. Jeremiah said the real crisis was moral and spiritual not economic or political. The answer, therefore, could never be politics or economics. Before the economic and political problems were tackled, the nation must repent of its sin and turn back to God for forgiveness. The nation must seek again the way of God and walk in the law of God.

This is the only answer "ultimately" to America's problems. Yes, we do need election reform laws to prevent another Watergate. Yes, we do need to take practical steps to avert a threatened economic recession. Yes, we need to change the structures of society so that there is more justice in the land. But all of these will fail if they are not linked with a return to God on the part of the people of this nation.

We have seen in recent days an amazing example of moral courage in the person of Solzhenitsyn. He was a bright young mathematician and artillery officer, a dedicated Communist, when he was thrust into the prison system of the Soviet Union. That system became a school where he met other prisoners, learned about the Democracy he had been shut away from. He also learned about God. It was while in prison that he began to talk about God and write about God. The Christian orientation of a Solzhenitsyn and a Pasternak comes to us as a surprise, but Anatoli Kuznetsov who has sought asylum in Great Britain told Malcolm Muggeridge that there is scarcely a single writer, artist, musician or scientist in the Soviet Union in whom a similar orientation was not to be detected. Muggeridge asked him how this could have happened, given the enormous anti-religious brainwashing job done on the people, and the absence of all Christian literature. His reply is memorable: the authorities, he said, forgot to suppress the works of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky.

Sitting in our safe homes, or going to a beautiful university, there is no single one of us who does not ask himself whether he could have the courage to lay his life on the line. Where did Solzhenitsyn get this kind of courage?

You can find the answer all the way through his books. He summarized it in a poem that was published in **Vogue** Magazine recently:

"How simple for me to live with you,
O Lord! How easy to believe in you!
When, in confusion, my soul bares itself or bends,
when the most wise can see no further
than this night and do not know what the
morrow brings: you fill we with the clear
certainty that you exist and that you watch
to see that all the paths of righteousness
be not closed.
From the heights of worldly glory
I am astonished by the path
through despair you have provided
me—this path from
which I have been worthy enough
to reflect your radiance to man.
All that I will yet reflect, you
will grant me. And for that
which I will not succeed in reflecting,
you have appointed others."

You may be among those "others." It is time to believe again. It is time to hope again. It is time to sing again. It is time to stand up and be counted again. But you can only do it, and the nation be blessed, if first you have peace with God.

This article was excerpted from a speech at Kansas State University, by permission of Dr. Graham.

RELIGIOUS AWAKENING NEEDED

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—The world's need for a religious awakening was the main topic when Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Billy Graham met privately for more than an hour here. The exiled Russian author was in Stockholm to accept his Nobel Prize for Literature, and the American evangelist was on the first stop of a trip to several European countries in which he planned to visit religious leaders primarily.

"Solzhenitsyn has the kind of intellect and moral courage that the world so desperately needs today," Graham said after the Sunday evening (Dec. 8) meeting. "His grasp of both history and theology is amazing."

The evangelist added: "The world is facing collapse through the pressures of the arms race, population explosion, hunger, runaway inflation and racial tension, but mostly because of a spiritual vacuum. This is why a worldwide spiritual awakening is so sorely needed. If we do not have it we will rush straight toward Armageddon."

Among stops on the evangelist's itinerary are London and Brussels. In the British capital he was scheduled to have breakfast with the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan. In Brussels he was to be a dinner guest of Leonard Firestone, United States Ambassador to Belgium. One of Graham's major 1975 commitments is in Brussels, where he will speak at a youth event known as Eurofest '75 and at a crusade.

NAE

NEWS BRIEFS

BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM EXPANDS

WHEATON, Ill.—NAE's Bicentennial Program plans for America's 200th Anniversary years have been expanded to include three days of special observance, according to Dr. Billy A. Melvin, NAE Executive Director.

The National Association of Evangelicals is encouraging cooperative evangelical services and outreach at the community level for: A Day of **Prayer**, scheduled for World Day of Prayer, March 5, 1976; **A Day of Witness** on Good Friday, April 16, 1976; and **A Day of Worship and Thanksgiving** on July 4, 1976, a Sunday. In addition, NAE will sponsor a national service on the afternoon of July 4 in Washington, D.C. with Dr. Billy Graham as speaker.

NAE will be providing participating churches and organizations with literature helps for their local services on each of the designated days.



World day of prayer
march 7 1975

a time when
Christians everywhere
gather together
to pray

"Workers Together With God," a Bible-centered worship guide prepared by the National Association of Evangelicals, is available in booklet form for group participation in church and community services

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World Religious News in Review

PROFITS FROM HARVEST HOUSE, HAL LINDSEY'S BOOKS, CHANNELED INTO NON-PROFIT AGENCY

PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif. (EP) — The proceeds from the newly formed publishing firm Harvest House at Irvine, Calif., and from the sale of Hal Lindsey's own books, are being channeled into the non-profit agency Christian Associates, Inc., according to the popular writer of prophecy.

Mr. Lindsey told EP News Service that Christian Associates, formed in 1969, received the monies in order to support the Light and Power Company —a training school in a former fraternity house near UCLA called at first the Jesus Christ Light and Power Company. There are currently seven teachers instructing 130 pupils. The school has an alumni of 20 men and women who have earned their certificates of graduation in the three-year course.

Christian Associates also supports a cassette tape ministry, young evangelists and Christian literature outreach. Lindsey, the author of five books (six million copies of his Late Great Planet Earth have been sold), said Harvest House was formed to promote the writings of young men who can communicate well in speaking but not necessarily in writing.

"We need a whole new generation of communicators today," Lindsey said.

Bob Hawkins is director of Harvest House. The company's latest book is The Promise, a marriage of editorial comment and art depicting the fufilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ.

PARABLE EXPERIMENT YIELDS $3,220.13 FOR CHURCH

LATAWANA, Iowa (EP)—The United Methodist Church here is $3,220.13 richer today because its minister spurred his 155 members to participate in a "parable of the talents."

The Rev. David Finestead put $1,000 of his own money in the collection plate Sept. 15th, asking his people to take out whatever they thought they could successfully invest.

"The congregation brought back $3,220.13, 73 days later," the 30-year-old minister told EP News Service. "What's more, we had many new volunteers to teach Sunday school classes and to participate in other church offices."

One little lady reluctantly took a dollar bill out of the collection plate as it passed. She used it to buy sugar and make apple jelly from fruit in her own back yard. She sold the small jars and made $80.43 profit for the church.

"We needed something like this," said Mrs. Tom Willis. "The church had been kind of drifting along. This has really brought the people together.

TV CIRCUITS TIE CITIES FOR EVANGELISTIC THRUST

NORFOLK, Va. (EP) — Planners of Billy Graham now have new evidence that closed circuit television can be used effectively in evangelistic efforts utilizing arenas in neighboring cities.

The 10-day Tidewater Virginia crusade in early November utilized techniques he had never tried before in the United States, even though he had experimented with them in Europe. He was on the platform at Hampton Roads Coliseum on the Tidewater's Peninsula four days and then moved to Norfolk's Scope convention and cultural complex. Two of the Hampton services were seen on closed circuit television in Norfolk, and all of the services at Scope were seen in the Hampton coliseum.

The congregations watching on the 25 x 32 foot screen not only responded to the invitations at the end of the sermons, but on several days the percentage of those responding in the closed circuit viewing was greater than the percentage registering decisions in the arenas where Graham appeared in person.

Total number of decisions recorded during the 10 days was 6,296. Average attendance for the days when both facilities were used was just over 18,000. The Coliseum attendance record was broken on the opening Sunday when 15,500 were in the facility. The Wednesday service at Scope drew a record crowd of 17,500 to Norfolk's convention and cultural complex.

COMPASSION FOR ELDERS SEEN AS TEST OF SOCIETY'S GREATNESS

NASHVILLE (EP)—A leading authority in the field of aging said here that one of the tests of a great society is the "compassion and respect shown to its elders."

David A. Affeldt, chief counsel of the Special Committee on Aging in the U.S. Senate, addressed a banquet group of more than 200 Southern Baptists gathered here for the denomination's premier Conference on Aging.

The conference, which lasted three days, was the denomination's first major effort to implement a 1973 SBC resolution calling for increased attention to developing program plans and resources in the aging field.

While the speaker could point to real gains for the aged (68.5 per cent increase in Social Security benefits, enactment of the historic Medicare legislation, establishment of a national hot meals program, creation of a national senior service corps and passage of a comprehensive pension reform package), he said the nation has "struck out" by not solving many "everyday problems affecting older Americans.



CHURCH NEWS

BIBLE CONFERENCE IN MILLEDGEVILLE, ILLINOIS

How God thrilled our lives this past week. Brian H. Moore, pastor of the Ardmore Brethren Church in South Bend, Indiana, was with us in Milledgeville for a week of special Bible lessons on the Book of James. Truly, our church will never be quite the same. This pastor had his "eyes opened" to wonderful truths never realized, or at least never considered before. We set no attendance records, but the Spirit was never sweeter as our hearts were set aflame by this Bible preacher. To God be the glory!

Pastor Jim Black
Milledgeville, Illinois

TAKE TIME TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Take time to count your blessings
Each day in all the year.
Don't wait to show your gratitude
'Till Thanksgiving Day is here.
The Lord, I'm sure has blessed you
From day to day the same;
So why not bow your head each day
And praise His Holy Name?
The air we breathe, the food we eat
All come from His great love.
Our health, our wealth, our happiness
May His great goodness prove:
Take time to stop and listen
As He speaks to you—and then
He'll tell you of more blessings
That come through serving Him!
Did you ever stop and feel His hand
As pressed upon your brow
When weighted down with problems
And in humbleness you bow?
He takes the time to lift you up
From your cares He sets you free;
If you will only take the time
And listen to His plea.
Forget the world about you,
For a little while each day;
Thank God for His protection
As you go along your way.
Don't let yourself be overcome
With life's vain, trivial things;
But be thankful, just be thankful
For the peace and joy He brings!

Della Davis
Sarasota, Florida



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR 1975

Join with thousands of other evangelicals in this nation-wide program of daily Bible reading. Handy bookmark-size reading guides are available in two plans, through the Bible in a year or Bible reading/study guide. Use the form below to place an order for your church today.

NAE
A PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

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YES, we wish to share in NAE's Bible reading program for 1975. Please send the following materials in the indicated quantities:

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_____ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR—daily reading guide chronologically covering the Bible in 1975.

Price of guides, either plan: 25/$1.50 50/$2.00 100 or more/$4.50 per 100

_____ POSTERS—for church bulletin boards and classrooms to promote your Bible reading program for 1975. 12/75 cents 25/$1.25 50 or more/$2.00 per 50

_____ PRAYER GUIDES—especially prepared for those interested in praying for specific NAE ministries. Provided free.

Total amount enclosed $_____

NOTE: Prices include postage/handling

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a book review ---



WHEN GOD SAYS "NO"

Rev. William P. Barker has written an easily read book, narrating a number of occasions when God said **no** to well known people in the Bible. Not a negative book, the author shows how each **no** was a way of guiding the person into the "better" way God had for them. Chapters start with Abraham and Moses and continue into the New Testament with Peter and Paul. In between are such people as David, who wanted to build a monument and James and John, who asked for revenge. Each chapter includes current illustrations of cases where God said **no.**

Rev. Barker includes much detail on each character which makes them "come alive" for us. However, the reader needs to remember that even in well researched stories, when detail is given, much will be the personal conclusions of the author. If this is kept in mind, these expanded accounts from the Bible can be thought provokers as God has occasion to say **no** in our own lives and we realize that even this response has a definite purpose for us.

Published by the Fleming H. Revell Company **When God Says No** can be purchased through the Brethren Publishing Company or other Christian bookstores.

The Bookworm





READERS MAKE LEADERS

The attorney for the prosecution stood before the jury and began presenting the case against Helen Highschool. He pointed out the number of times she'd been left out of activities, ignored or mocked by her classmates, passed off as "average" by her teachers. The jury shook their heads in sorrow. "Ladies and Gentlemen of the jury," the attorney concluded, "these are the unbiased opinions of Helen's own generation. They have no reason to lie. This homely, average student does not deserve to be one of us! What's your pleasure?"

The foreman stood up. "Guilty," he said. "We hereby recommend the accused be sentenced to perpetual exile from the world of the Beautiful People."

An exaggeration? Perhaps, but it's typical of the feelings of inadequacy and low self-worth perpetuated by the destructive value system our children learn from the moment they can hear and understand. And most of us would be surprised to discover how many other people (both adults and children) secretly feel that they, too, have been tried by a jury of their peers, found wanting, and sentenced to live on the sidelines—without further appeal.

This is the view of Dr. James Dobson, professor of pediatrics, child psychologist, and author of the recent best selling book, DARE TO DISCIPLINE. His new book HIDE OR SEEK is subtitled SELF-ESTEEM FOR THE CHILD: A Compelling Approach for Parents and Teachers—and Dr. Dobson feels the subject is one of the most important issues any human being has to deal with in the course of his life. For without self-esteem a child's emotional growth is seriously—often irrevocably—stunted.

How do we teach our children to cope with a value system that places a premium on intelligence and beauty—commodities over which the children themselves have no control. How do we equip them for participation in a contest which, through no fault of their own, they are already on their way to losing? Dr. Dobson believes the **only** way we can help our children to survive in our competitive society is for adults to teach, and practice, strategies which enhance self-esteem.

Without self-esteem every child is a potential Lee Harvey Oswald, a Sirhan Sirhan whose massive sense of inadequacy, resentment and bitterness threaten daily to explode into violence. Without self-esteem every child faces an empty future of rejection, isolation, and perhaps eventual withdrawal into mental illness.

Given the alternatives, it's easy to see why Dr. Dobson believes the subject of self-esteem should be of vital interest to parents, educators, psychologists—to every adult who cares about the well-being of children. If the nation's children are truly our No. 1 natural resource, we cannot afford to overlook any technique that will better equip them for survival—and creative productivity—in the future that looms ahead.

$4.95—published by Fleming H. Revell Co.

CHEEP ADVICE



The old "Pro" reveals how to distinguish people who have never served on a committee before. They are the ones who always show up at the meetings on time.

All the wood for a temple does not come from one tree.

Chinese Proverb

Flattery is 50% soft soap—and soap is 90% lye.

Think of your own sins the first part of the night while you are awake, and of the sins of others the second part of the night while you are asleep.

Chinese Proverb

If you have a split personality, you'll never be lonesome.

Bad habits are like a comfortable bed—easy to get into but terribly hard to get out of.

THOUGHTS



by Kay Berry

Take a few minutes, think about yourself and the purpose and meaning of life for you.

As I consider this, I look at my life to see when I'm content and happy. I'm not happy for long if I get wealth by selfish means. I'm not happy for long if I do something to inflate my ego.

I become happy when I do something for my neighbor. I know that at times it may be hard to give a part of myself to a friend (or an enemy) who is in need, but I also know I am joyful when I give to help my brother.

I have learned that when I share and give, I receive much more than I have given. Just giving a simple smile to a stranger I pass can receive a smile in return.

As I turn my thoughts from people to creation, I see a world of unbelievable beauty—snow covered mountain peaks, grass so green, daisies so bright and yellow, waves bouncing upon a beach, and a rainbow after a spring shower.

I see all of creation through eyes—fantastically structured eyes that see depths, distance, detail, and thousands of shades of colors. I think, "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom Thou has made them all; all the earth is full of thy riches." (Psalm 104:24)

But through my eyes I also see hate, crime, hunger, pollution, Watergate, inflation. . . . I see hate and love exist in one world and wonder why hate cannot die.

I know there is a God who created the land, sea, and sky, for these did not come into being by themselves. I believe I have found purpose in this world because I have opened the door of my mind to God and let the love of Jesus in.

I feel different. I feel love for my neighbor like I've never had before. I believe and am not disappointed in my God. (Romans 9:33b) He gives the only satisfaction and comfort in a world where many men have forsaken hate, orderliness for confusion, and justice for immorality.

WIN



WE'RE IN NEED

The Brethren Publishing Company is a business, it tries to operate like a business and in doing so must utilize business equipment that eventually reaches the end of a normal life cycle. Type, ink rollers, folders, trimmers, addressographs, typewriters etc. are being forced to travel more than the extra mile. In many cases, instead of being retired they are being retreaded. Even retreads have a limited life span. A need exists and your support can supply that need.

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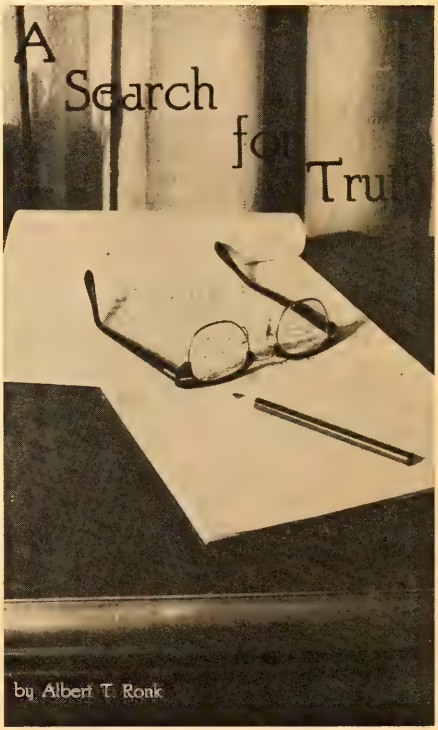


WOODSY OWL, the anti-pollution spokesbird for the U.S. Forest Service says:

Did You Know? An acre of young, actively growing trees produce enough oxygen to keep 18 people alive and healthy for one year.

Ashland Theological Seminary
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Ashland, Ohio 44805





"A Search For Truth" an autobiography by Albert T. Ronk is now available. It is a memorable book of many of the incidents of this man whose love of the Brethren Church has been exemplified in many places of a geographical nature, in many phases of participation in church activities, pastoral and a host of others.

This book was printed as a memorial volume in a limited edition by the Ronk family and the Book and Pamphlet Commission. It is available at the Brethren Publishing Company Bookstores in Ashland, Ohio and Plymouth, Indiana.

The price of this book is $1.00 plus 35¢ postage and handling charge.

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